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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

*FIRST PARLIAMENT*

FOURTH SESSION

1963-64

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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[Oaths]

2 OCTOBER 1963

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

*Wednesday, 2nd October, 1963*

*The House met at 10 a.m.*

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Members under the Republican Constitution:—

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#### RETIREMENT OF CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS

Mr Speaker : Order ! Order ! I have to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Clerk as follows :

Sir,

*I have the honour to inform you that I shall be proceeding on leave preparatory to retirement on Thursday 3rd October, and so vacate the office of the Clerk of the House which I have been privileged to hold for the past eight years.*

*It is with great regret that I leave the service of the House and I wish to express to you, Sir, to your two immediate predecessors below whom I sat at the Table, and to all the Members of the House, my profound gratitude for the kindness and courtesy that I have always received. My work has been made happy by the loyalty of all my colleagues and I feel sure that they will continue to serve this honourable House with all devotion.*

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. Ade Manuwa

The Minister of Transport and Aviation  
(Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I would like, with the leave of the House, to move a Resolution of

appreciation of the work which Mr Manuwa has done for this honourable House in the following terms :

That Mr Speaker be asked to convey to Mr Benjamin Ade Manuwa on his retirement from the office of the Clerk of this House, an expression of Members' deep appreciation of the service which he has rendered to this House for nearly eleven years, and their admiration of his outstanding abilities, profound knowledge of procedure and practice which has enabled him to give constant valuable advice to the House and its Members in the conduct of business.

Mr Speaker, the news which you have given us just now has come to many of us as a great shock. Many of us have known Mr Manuwa for many years and those of us who have even known him during the life of the present Parliament will agree that when he retires he will be very much missed in this House. There are moments of great tension in this Legislature as in other Legislatures all over the world when the soothing advice, the calmness and the coolness of the Clerk who is the chief adviser to you, Mr Speaker, come in very handy to rescue the position.

Mr Manuwa is a man whom we all respect very much. He is a man of great experience, a man who has got a thorough knowledge of procedure and practice of Parliament, a man to whom we turn (even those of us who are lawyers) from time to time to tell us exactly what the practice should be in this House. I think that when I say that we appreciate very much what Mr Manuwa has done, the service he has rendered to this House, I am speaking for all sides of this House. (*Hear, hear*).

There is one thing that I particularly admire in Mr Manuwa and that is his modesty, his humility and the courtesy with which he treats all Members of this House alike. Added to that also is his impartiality. I know that sometimes when winking go on and whispers go on, Mr Manuwa has always been Mr Manuwa to give the Speaker and this House the advice which he thinks is just irrespective of whoever it may affect. I think that that goes a long way really to make him one of the most efficient Clerks that any Nigerian Parliament can boast of and I am quite sure that the record he has created here will long be remembered.

We are very sorry indeed that Mr Manuwa is retiring. We would have very much liked him to stay, but if he must go, I would like to say now, speaking for the Government Bench and indeed for all sides of this House, that he goes away with our deepest gratitude and our best wishes to him for the future. I hope also that we are a little confident in a way because during these years when he has been serving this House he has had on either side of him, young people whom he has been training for this onerous work.

It can sometimes be overlooked that the work of Clerk of Parliaments is a very onerous one indeed. When the House is sitting and, indeed, when the House rises, he continues to work and he works without looking at the clock. Every Member of the House is a very important man in this country and for somebody to serve 312 people and try to satisfy each one of them and each one of them being a V.I.P., we can realise it is a very onerous job indeed.

We are very grateful to Mr Manuwa for the wonderful service which he has rendered to this Parliament and I can assure him that in the history of this Parliament, his name will find a notable place.

I do not want to speak for a long time, but I would like to say again that all of us appreciate not only what he has done for this House, but the way in which he has done it because there could be people who have a lot of knowledge and experience in very many fields and they would find it difficult to impart that knowledge or give the necessary advice to people who are in need. But the way in which Mr Manuwa has conducted himself in the service of this House is a way which we should not only all admire but a way which all of us should also try to emulate.

He has always conducted himself with dignity and decorum and I have never really seen him ruffled during the ten years now that I have personally known him in this and previous Parliaments. I would like to repeat once again that Mr Manuwa carries away with him the very best wishes of this House, our gratitude and also our prayers for his continued success in the future.

I beg to move.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** I rise second the Motion which has been moved by the Acting Leader of the House and in doing

so I am sure that all sections of this House will agree with the sentiments expressed by the Minister. I think we are going to miss a very good friend in the person of the Clerk of the House Mr Manuwa. Mr Manuwa, during his term of office, has been a personal friend, not only an ordinary adviser, to almost everybody in this House. That is why I say that we are going to miss him.

My association with Mr Manuwa dates back to a very long time ago, not only in this House but some years ago when a friend told me about him and said that he was a book-worm. He said that Mr Manuwa was too studious and that he reads every moment of his life. I think it is that which has brought him to the present place which he has attained to-day and he has combined his learning, his studies with good character. The unobtrusiveness of his character and the way he has carried himself, the modesty, the humility with which he has done his work, I think, have impressed every Member of this House.

I think we will thank him immensely and we should be grateful that at this time of our history we have had a Clerk of Parliaments in the person of Mr Manuwa. We can assure him that his place will be hard to refill, but thanks to him also that during his work in this Parliament, as the hon. Minister has said, he has found time to train those young people who are sitting beside him and I think they are going to try to fill his place. But I can assure them that his shoes will be very big for them! There is a popular appreciation of the Speaker's work, I am not trying to embarrass the Speaker, but people are impressed by his impartiality and also his knowledge of the functions of this House, but I think Mr Manuwa should be regarded as the voice behind the throne.

It is this co-operation, the friendliness between the Speaker and Clerk which has made this Parliament the best Parliament in Africa.

One last word and that is, we will assure Mr Manuwa that the independent Parliament whose inception he personally saw and contributed so much to has grown into a stalwart person.

To-day is the second day of the Republic of this Federation and we are now in a new era and I think it is in part due to his tireless efforts and his attitude towards all Members

and his work and his contribution to our Parliament that his absence will be felt. We assure him that we wish him well and we hope he will have a very good rest.

I think he is retiring too early. I think his is a case which supports the contention that people should wait until they are about sixty or sixty-five years of age before they retire. If Mr Manuwa wishes to stay on for a few more years I think every Member in this House will be very glad. But unfortunately he has made up his mind and as a man of character he has to go and if he must go we must express our prayers to God that he may have a very long rest. I think he will live up to the age of eighty or ninety as the case may be and when that time comes he will look back on these days as a time not when he was retiring as an old man but when he was retiring as an advanced young man.

I beg to support.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East):** It is very usual on an occasion like this for everybody to say nice things about the person who is leaving. I do not think that to-day we are just following a fashion. We are saying what we are saying from the bottom of our hearts. We are saying a big *Thank You* to Mr Manuwa.

Many things have been said about him in praise of his work but it is not the first time that such things have been said. It has been said probably more eloquently by the rise which he has had in his career until he got to the top of the legislature where he now is. What we are now saying is just a confirmation of what has been said not only in words but in action. We thank Mr Manuwa very much for bearing with us.

Some of us can be very difficult at times. But he has not been very ruffled. He has served not only you, Mr Speaker, as Speaker, but he has also served different types of people. He has served under Sir Frederick Metcalfe, he has served under our friend and colleague here the hon. Jaja Wachuku and under your good-self, but whoever he might be serving under we do not notice any difference in Mr Manuwa's coolness and gentle efficiency.

The gentleness of the man is terrific. I was not too close with him at any time until we went together on the last Mission to Moscow. That man's efficiency is to be seen to be believed. I did not think that at his age he

[CHIEF ROSIJI]

would be doing all that much, but he was doing more than anybody expected. He was doing his job in such a gentle manner that we had nothing but great appreciation for Mr Manuwa.

Mr Manuwa is leaving us soon, unfortunately, but as has been said before me he will carry with him not only the appreciation of the work which he has done but also our prayers for a long and very healthy life. Long life which is unhealthy is a curse but we all pray for him to have blessings and not curses. He will have a long life, a long rest, good health, great vitality—

An hon. Member : Plenty of money.

Chief Rosiji : I would not like to put it that way. I would like to say that there must be many things that he wants which we do not know. So, we will pray for him to have all the things which he himself wants to have.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) : It is only natural that a person with whom we have been for a very long time serving us loyally and patiently that we would like each and everyone of us to say a few words in his favour.

I can give testimony to the fact that the matured experience of Mr Manuwa's Parliamentary Procedure and practice can match that of any Clerk in any legislature in the world. (*Hear, hear*).

From the tone of the House and from the feelings of the Members I have so far sensed, I think I shall be expressing the feeling of the House if I take the bull by the horns and say that I know Mr Manuwa might have made up his mind in the past but he can change it.

An hon. Member : But the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) can make and unmake ?

Alhaji Bello Dandago : What a man can do another man can do, and what a man has done, another man can undo. The retiring age is either 45 or 50. It is my considered opinion from the feeling of the House that I would ask the Federal Government, and I am now asking the Federal Government, to extend Mr Manuwa's term of office.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu South East) : I associate myself very completely with the wonderful sentiments expressed by the Members who have spoken in respect of Mr Manuwa. I felt I would say something as perhaps the only Member of the House who enjoys the privilege of seeing things from both sides. As a Floor Member I agree completely with what my colleagues, the Floor Members, have said and as the Deputy Speaker, I have had the fortunate experience of observing Mr Manuwa at work from the other side as well.

I think it is a very correct statement to say that the advice and the efficiency of Mr Manuwa go a very long way indeed towards making the task of the Speaker an easier one.

Hon. Members may know that there are times when points of order get so voluminous and become such clever cloaks for all sorts of things, but one sitting in the Chair one has all the time got to think either on one's feet or on one's seat ; and it takes a very capable, impartial and efficient man to be able to push in some pieces of advice as and when they become necessary in order to save one from embarrassment and I think Mr Manuwa has discharged that responsibility very effectively.

In these days when we look forward more and more towards persons and characters that would go to emphasise the unity of this country I think someone of the character and quality of this gentleman deserves a place in our high set-ups. Throughout our time in this Parliament no one has ever associated Mr Manuwa with any discrimination on any ground whatsoever.

We do know that with some of our Heads of Departments there is a lot to be desired either in the way they say things and say the wrong things at the wrong time, or in the way they do things to create the impression that they are themselves deeply connected with either regional or clannish policies that one can see them as nothing other than agents of disunity in the country ; but with a man like Mr Manuwa everybody would agree that in the way Mr Manuwa has discharged his responsibilities there has been no cause for anyone to feel that one has got or somebody else has got some undeserved treatment either because one is from one end of the country or from the other

(14)

No one gets an undeserved treatment either because one belongs to one political party or the other.

I think it is a fair thing to say that Mr Manuwa in the conduct of his office has certainly reflected complete impartiality and matured sense of unity which we require for the progress of this country.

As has been said, we do sincerely hope that in replacing Mr Manuwa the set-up under which he has worked should be thoroughly re-examined with a view to making some improvements if any there need be, because there may be difficulties under which he has laboured and under which another man may not be able to work due to insufficient maturity or experience or ability to cope with such difficulties. For example, I think the time must have come when we should think in terms of this Legislature and its staff as a separate establishment. The Clerk of the Parliaments should be regarded as and should enjoy the responsibility and position of the Permanent Secretary to the Legislature. His Department should be as self-accounting as other Departments are.

I think if we expect the Clerk of the Parliaments and his Department to function effectively we should give them as much of the facilities and organisational responsibilities as others in other various Departments enjoy. I do not think that the Parliament can go on with the staff of the Parliament being regarded as bits and pieces, or fragments of the civil service, and in effect—not even in a position to handle its own affairs. I think Mr Manuwa has managed very well under such difficult conditions, but the fact that he has handled them ably should not make us lose sight of the necessity for bringing them in line with what obtains in other Parliaments that we have set out to emulate.

I think Mr Manuwa deserves every congratulation, and I need not repeat the prayer and goodwill which have already been said by others.

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I am sure Members will agree with me that no amount of time spent on this Resolution is too much, and in supporting this Resolution all Members will agree with me, and, in fact, they have already agreed with me,

that Mr Manuwa is a highly respectable gentleman who has always dedicated his life to the service of this Parliament. It is, therefore, a matter of great regret that Mr Manuwa is leaving Parliament finally.

Mr Manuwa is always very friendly to all the Members of this House and also to the members of the staff of the House itself, and all admire him. They do not want to leave him at all. However, there is a saying that "individuals pass, but people remain". No matter how long we can retain the services of Mr Manuwa he will have to go one day as everyone of us here will have to go ; but it will be very difficult to get the right person who is as efficient as Mr Manuwa, and who can give the same dedication to service as he does.

However, he is leaving finally, and there is no reason why we should stop him from doing so. I finally wish him every success, long life and prosperity ; and I assure him that his memory will remain in the minds of the Members of this House.

Mr J. D. Odeunmi (Egba North) : Mr Speaker, I thank you very much for the indulgence. The retirement of Mr Manuwa, as it was said by somebody, is a shock to us all ; but I think that he will feel very happy for one reason, that he has led this House to the status of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It was the Legislature of the Federation of Nigeria during the tenure of his office ; but to-day we can proudly call out the Republic of Nigeria. He is, therefore, up till the moment the first Clerk of the Parliaments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mr Manuwa's ingenuity is unquestionable, and his devotion to service is very outstanding. His cool-headedness and his unassuming personality are indeed second to none. He is certainly a pride to the Republic of Nigeria. He can be favourably compared with and can even supersede any international man in his category. So Nigeria should be very proud of having a man of the calibre of Mr Manuwa.

I observe, and I want to say that I feel, as it is expressed by his colleagues that he is not a bully. He is a friend to the people working under him, and I feel that Mr Manuwa must have had a very happy home. I wish it were possible to have with him here his cousin who has definitely helped him in maintaining such a standard of life.

(15)

[MR ODEBUNMI].

Lastly, I would agree wholeheartedly with one of the hon. Members who has asked this House to consider the possibility of extending his tenure of office, and I would ask that he himself should consider the possibility of extending his tenure of office if requested to do so.

He still looks quite young, hale and hearty and he could even be mistaken for a teenager. For that reason, I support the idea that the Government of the Republic of Nigeria should extend Mr Manuwa's tenure of office. I beg to support.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : I rise to support the Resolution. I agree entirely with all the sentiments expressed by hon. Members in this Resolution, but I wish humbly to emphasise that in parliamentary work we need experience very much. If for the past nine or ten years now we have had the services of Mr Manuwa so manifestly demonstrated, then it is absolutely necessary to remind the Government that in replacing him care must be taken.

I know that the youngmen coming after him have carefully understudied him, they have the knowledge and they have the interest, but the patience which the Clerk of the Parliaments needs must be ascertained ; otherwise parliamentary work will not be very smooth. For that reason I want to support entirely what the Chief Whip has said, and that is to pray the Speaker to bring it to the Government to examine the possibility of extending the time of service of Mr Manuwa by about two years. By this extension no youngman will lose his opportunity. If anybody will lose financially as a result of Mr Manuwa's extension of service, by all means, let such a person be adequately compensated. But we are asking that at least the Government should be good enough to give Mr Manuwa two more years of service.

**Several hon. Members** : Make it five years ; make it five years.

**Chief Abii** : If the time is extended by five years I have no objection.

In closing I want to make this remark. About a month or so ago we learnt that the Minister of Establishment expressed the intention of the Government to extend the retiring age of civil servants in this country. If that is so I would like to say that the time of those people who have rendered good services to the Government and who are due to retire now should be extended.

I feel it is necessary to humbly inform the Government that we have assented to Mr Manuwa's retiring age being extended. He has done very well. We want him to retire when he is young so that he will enjoy his good health but we would like the Government to extend his time by two years. I beg to support.

**Minister of State** (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : The acting Leader of the House and Minister of Transport has spoken for the Government but I feel that I must pay a personal tribute to this great and distinguished son of the Republic of Nigeria.

*"Some are born great some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."*

Here, in this Clerk of the Parliaments is a man who by his own perseverance and dint of hard work has come to the position in which he finds himself. The good that men do lives after them. Let the tributes which the Clerk of the House is receiving to-day be a lesson to the young men who will follow him. It is neither by being a bully nor by assertion of authority that people make their marks. Mr Manuwa has distinguished himself by being humble but effective. He has won the hearts of his countrymen and for the Members of the legislature to pay tributes to a person is something in itself. These are men who are timbers in their own right. There is no reason to praise anyone if that person is not deserving of praise, and hon. Members will be the first to lash that person with their tongues because that is what they are paid for. They can praise and lash as and when the occasion arises. I know those who will come after Mr Manuwa will learn their lessons ; they will learn a lesson in simplicity, they will learn a lesson in being secluded without being ineffective and a lesson in devotion to service and duty. Mr Manuwa is so understanding and he has above all the quality required of a man in his position—the human touch.

Many times people say one must go to a university before one can become something ; at times they even go to the extent of comparing the universities—Cambridge, Oxford, Yale and Harvard and sometimes the Institute of Massachusetts. But we forget that Jesus Christ himself did not go to the University of Cambridge or Yale or Oxford.

**Mr A. F. Oduana** (Ijebu South) : On a point of information, Jesus Christ went to the highest school of learning in the world. We did not hear anything of him between the ages of twelve and thirty. He was busy studying then.

**Mr Speaker** : I think this should be left to better authorities.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : Jesus Christ went to the most celebrated university of universities and that is the university of life and commonsense. That, in a small scale, is applicable to the person we are honouring to-day. The things that make a person are the regard he has for others, the devotion he has for his own duty, and the respect and courtesy which is due to others from the humblest person to the biggest one. When a person can do unto others as he would have them do unto him, then he would have made the grade in life. That is exactly what has guided Mr Manuwa.

When I heard that he was going to retire, I took a good look at his face, but saw no wrinkles. He did not appear to me to have gone up to the age of 58. I am, indeed, surprised that he is retiring now. It is, therefore, for the Acting Leader of the House to carry back to the Authorities concerned, the sentiments so eloquently expressed by the Members of this honourable Legislature on October 2nd, the second day in the life of the Nigerian Republic.

I am sure that since both sides of the House have spoken, and since we believe in liberal democracy—the government of the people, by the people, and for the people—the voice of Members must have significance and weight.

We pay tribute to this man.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central) : I rise to seize this opportunity that has been so kindly given to me, to say how very much we respect Mr Manuwa. I happen to know Mr Manuwa very well, and I am sure that he himself is not aware that I know half of what I know about him. Many people, meeting Mr Manuwa for the first time, will not recognise that he is the son of a Minister.

Mr Manuwa is the second son of a Minister of Religion. Knowing fully well what it is to be the son of a Minister of Religion, it is not surprising that Mr Manuwa has proved a successful Minister for the State.

If all the N.P.C. members knew his beginning, they would like him all the more because he spent a better part of his life in the Northern Region. As soon as he left school, he was sent to the Records Office of the Nigerian Regiment in Kaduna. He did such excellent work in the Records Office that the Northern Region Education Department also requested the benefit of his services. The Provincial Administration again loaned him from the Education Department.

Mr Manuwa worked so hard and so diligently in the Provincial Administration that the latter refused to allow him to go back to the Education Department. It was from the Provincial Administration that he came to the Houses of Parliament from where he is retiring to-day. The eleven years that most Members are reckoning, are the only part of his life he has used as a working man outside the Northern Region. The Northern Region was, therefore, his stepping stone, and certainly he has been kind and gentle to everybody including those of us who come from the North.

A further knowledge I have of Mr Manuwa, which he may not be aware of, is that he is one of the luckiest sick men who have recovered, which means that God, whom his father served, has been looking after him. One would have felt that because his brother is a physician, he should not fall sick.

His father's name will remain indelible in Ondo Province to-day because there is an institution at Okitipupa named after his father, Mr Manuwa's record will also remain indelible in the history of Nigerian Parliament. I listened to an hon. Member saying that anyone stepping into his shoe must know that the shoe is a very big one. I rate Mr Manuwa's shoe, insofar as his work in Parliament is concerned, as size sixteen and a half.

There is one quality I find in Mr Manuwa which no one has mentioned yet. People have been saying that Mr Manuwa is humble, kind, lovable and so on, but I want to make this one point about him ; Mr Manuwa is kind, but very strict.

When I purchased my last car, I wanted the time for the payment of the instalments to be increased, but Mr Manuwa insisted that the repayments should be made within the life of this Parliament. I want the person who will step into his shoes to be kind, but to be strict.

I beg to support.

**Chief E. O. Okunowo** (Ijebu Central): It has been proved beyond reasonable doubt the type of man that Mr Manuwa is. I am sure that if all the Members of this House were to be given the opportunity, each and every one would have something nice to say about Mr Manuwa.

It has been proved that Mr Manuwa is one of the talents that this our great country possesses. It would be a very great injury to the nation if we should bury one of our talents. I support the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*), the Member for Owerri East (*Mr Abii*), and the Minister of State (*Dr K. O. Mbadawo*), who have expressed the view that the Government should be able to listen to the opinions and the wishes of the Members of this Parliament by making further use of one of our very valuable talents, and grant extension of service to Mr Manuwa.

I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, nemine contradicente:* That Mr Speaker be asked to convey to Mr Benjamin Adeoye Manuwa, on his retirement from the office of the Clerk of this House, an expression of Members' deep appreciation of the service which he has rendered to this House for nearly eleven years, and their admiration for his outstanding ability and profound knowledge of procedure and practice, which has enabled him to give constant, valuable advice to the House and its Members in the conduct of business.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn sine die*—(THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House do now adjourn sine die.

*Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to one o'clock.*

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NIGERIA

Wednesday, 8th January, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

#### OATHS

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

Mr J. Ukueku .. (Urhobo West)  
M. Mohammed  
Attahiru Abubakar (Lafiagi/Pategi)  
M. Ibrahim Muku .. (Bida West)  
Alhaji Adamu Muri .. (Jahun)

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

Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh  
Hon. J. C. Obande  
Alhaji Aminu Kano  
Chief D. N. Oronsaye  
M. A. Alangade  
Mr D. Senu-Oke  
Alhaji Ahmadu Fatika  
Shettima Ali Monguno  
Mr M. E. Elenwa  
Mr R. B. K. Okafor

**Mr Speaker:** May I remind Members of the contents of the Standing Orders, Order 28—Behaviour of Members in the House?

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mr Speaker:** I have to acquaint the House that I have received a letter from the Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos as follows:—  
"3rd October, 1963.

*The Honourable Speaker,  
House of Representatives,  
Lagos.*

*I have to inform you that in accordance with the provision to Section 55 of the Constitution of the Federation, the following Members of Parliament were sworn before me on the third day of October, 1963:—*

*David Adetunji Ogunleye  
David Kudedo Aihonsu*

*(Signed) Clement Nageon de Lestang  
Chief Justice of the High Court of Lagos".*

I have to acquaint the House that I have also received a letter from Mr Justice Lambo as follows:—

"2nd January, 1964.

*The Honourable Speaker,  
House of Representatives,  
Lagos.*

*I have to inform you that the Honourable the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Dr T. O. Elias, to-day took the following Oath of Allegiance before me:—*

*"I Taslim Olatwale Elias swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. So help me God."*

*(Signed) S. O. Lambo,  
Judge."*

**Chief R. A. Orok** (Abak North West): On a point of information, my constituency is Abak North West and not Abak North East.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS HEALTH

##### Pharmaceutical Industries

**O.1214. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Minister of Health, if he has any plans for the establishment of Pharmaceutical Industries in the country.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health** (M. Hamza Gombe): There is already in existence a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Laboratory in Lagos which was opened in 1960. The second phase of this programme, the manufacture of tablets and ointments, has already been completed. The manufacture of injections in ampoules, the third phase will commence this year.

The Manufacturing Laboratory is a nucleus which I intend to expand to supply my Ministry with as many of its requirements as possible.

Members may also wish to be aware that vaccines are already in production in the Federal Territory for small pox, yellow fever and rabies.

The general question of a factory for production of drugs on a commercial basis is also being carefully examined.



## UNICEF Assistance

\*O.1276. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Health, how much has been received from April 1960 to December 1963 from UNICEF, and, how has the money been used.

Mr Hamza Gombe : It is not the practice for UNICEF to pay out money to member Governments but to provide services and supply equipment. The value of the services and equipment provided from 1953 to 1963 is £3,584,600. These services and equipment have been utilised as follows :—

	Allocations to June 1963
Basic Health Services ..	667,200
Malaria Control ..	482,700
Tuberculosis Control ..	120,600
Leprosy Control ..	778,200
Yaws Eradication ..	883,500
Nutrition Services ..	80,500
Nutrition Training ..	54,000
Milk Conservation ..	73,200
Community Development	168,200
Freight .. ..	276,500
Total .. ..	3,584,600

## COMMUNICATIONS

## Owerri Telephone Services

\*O.1142. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications, how soon he intends to provide Owerri General Post Office with a direct line and an automatic exchange.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications (Mr S. F. Nwika) : The present manual exchange at Owerri is provisionally listed for replacement by an automatic exchange. Direct trunk lines to Enugu are also to be provided. It is not possible at this stage to say when these projects will be undertaken.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : I would like to know from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications why we cannot get a direct line from Lagos to Owerri ?

## Telecommunications Projects

\*O.1208. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Communications, if he will give a detailed list of all the projects—construction *et cetera* he has for Telecommunications in the Six-Year Development Programme indicating those which have already been executed, those yet to be executed and the value of each.

Mr Nwika : It is not possible at this stage to give a detailed list of Telecommunications projects which will be executed in the Six-Year Development Programme as the question is still under study. It is hoped that the information will be made available to hon. Members in the near future.

Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) : Could the hon. Minister please tell us whether Aba Telephone Exchange is included in this Six-Year Development Plan ?

Mr Speaker : That is a new question.

## Training of Nigerians in Telecommunications

\*O.1209. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Communications, what efforts he is making towards intensive training of Nigerians in the highly technical and complex fields of telecommunications.

Mr Nwika : The Posts and Telegraphs Division provides courses for school certificate holders at the Training School, Oshodi in Microwave, Voice frequency telegraph, Carrier Transmission systems, and in automatic telephone and telegraph switching systems.

Officers also undergo training overseas through Technical Assistance schemes or by attachment to organisations such as the British Post Office, Marconi Company and the English General Electric Company ; Northern Electric Company, Canada and Radio Corporation of America.

## Emene Telephone Exchange

\*O.1277. Mr G. O. D. Eneh asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will give immediate consideration to the provision of a telephone exchange at Emene near Enugu in view of the industrial establishments in the town.

## Egbo-Etiti Sub-Post Office

\*O.1281. Mr J. Chukwu asked the Minister of Communications, if he plans to establish a Sub-Post Office soon at Egbo-Etiti Clan in Awgu Division for which repeated representations have been made to him.

Mr Nwika : As the current units of business performed in the two postal agencies in the clan are Lengwe 8,737 units and Ndeaboh 14,074 units, I do not propose to establish a Sub-Post Office in the near future in Egbo-Etiti clan in Awgu Division.

## Postal Agency near Nwaigwe

\*O.1282. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications, when he will give consideration to the application by the people of Odoro Ikot Local Council in Ikot Ekpene Division for a postal agency near Nwaigwe.

Mr Nwika : Following a similar question on 5th December, 1962, by the same hon. Member, the establishment of a Postal Agency at Odoro Ikot Local Council in Ikot Ekpene was investigated but conditions laid down were not satisfied and consequently it was not possible to proceed with the opening of the Postal Agency.

Another investigation is being made and if the conditions laid down regarding units are satisfied the agency will be opened.

Mr A. A. Ajibola (Egbado South) : On a point of order, shall we know how much it costs the N.P.C. to buy these Members ?

Mr Speaker : Order, this is irrelevant.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : Will Mr Speaker please ask the Member to withdraw ?

Mr Speaker : I should not take this too serious ; it is probably a little joke.

## Okon Postal Agency

\*O.1283. Mr M. B. Afanideh asked the Minister of Communications whether he will investigate the cause of the delay in opening the Okon Postal Agency which was built by communal efforts ; and if he will make statement.

Mr Nwika : There has been a Postal Agency at Okon since 20th August, 1951, and it has been functioning satisfactorily.

Mr Nwika : My Ministry is giving urgent consideration for the provision of a telephone exchange at Emene during the present Development Programme.

## Postal Agencies in Awka Division

\*O.1278. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, whether he has received applications for postal agencies from Amanuke, Nise, Nawgu and Ukpo-Akpu in Awka Division, and if he will grant their request.

Mr Nwika : The Minister has received applications for postal agencies from Nise and Nawgu. When the question of establishing postal agencies in these places was first investigated, it was discovered that they did not satisfy the conditions laid down but the question is being investigated again with a view to determining whether they have now satisfied all the conditions regarding units.

The Minister has received no applications for postal agencies from Amanuke and Ukpo-Akpu.

## Abagana Post Office

\*O.1279. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will refund the cost of the Abagana Post Office which was built by community effort.

Mr Nwika : If the hon. Member will request the local authority concerned to submit an application to the Territorial Controller, Posts and Telegraphs, Enugu, the matter will receive necessary consideration.

## Ogbomosho Post Office

\*O.1280. Mr S. O. Ogundipe asked the Minister of Communications, if he will indicate when he intends to build a new Post Office at Ogbomosho in view of the fact that the existing one is no longer adequate to meet the needs of the people of the area.

Mr Nwika : A Postal Development study of Ogbomosho shows that a Type N. 2 Post Office is warranted, and this requirement has been included in the 1962-68 extended Programme, but it is not possible at this stage to say when the project will be undertaken.

**Mbieri and Mbaitoli Telephone Services**

\*O.1284. Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications if he will extend telephone services to Mbieri and Mbaitoli Sub-Post Offices.

Mr Nwika : It is the policy of this Ministry to provide telephone service to as many Administrative Headquarters as possible during the current Development Programme and Mbieri is in this category.

Mbaitoli is also listed for consideration along with other localities for telephone service.

**Ikeduru Telephone Exchange**

\*O.1285 Mr A. U. D. Mbah asked the Minister of Communications, if he is aware that there are enough subscribers to justify the installation of a telephone exchange at the Ikeduru Post Office, and if he will indicate how soon he intends to provide one in the area.

Mr Nwika : The Minister is not aware that there are any waiting applicants for telephone service at Ikeduru.

Consideration will however be given for the conversion of the present Rural Call Office to a telephone exchange during the current Development Programme.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****Soil Survey**

O.1203 Mr S. Nnaji asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will state the number of places already visited by the team of Soil Surveyors and how soon will the team visit Udi East area to carry out soil survey.

The Minister of Economic Development (Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim) : I am sorry to say that the answer to this Question is not yet ready. I shall cause it to be published as soon as it is ready.

**National Parks**

\*O.1210 Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Economic Development, when he will establish National Parks throughout the country.

Alhaji the hon. Waziri Ibrahim : The Federal Government will establish National Parks throughout the country as soon as the

necessary funds are available. All available Government's resources are fully committed to more pressing needs.

Mr Speaker : It is now 10.30 and under Standing Orders no further Questions will be entertained.

**Presentation of Public Bills—**

Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) : I want to raise a point of order and this refers to Order No. 9—Arrangement of Public Business. I wish to do this before the Presentation of Public Bills.

Mr Speaker : I quite appreciate that the Member for Dambatta (Alhaji Sarkin Bai) is trying to raise a matter, but he should have stood up to my notice before the announcement of the presentation of public Bills. However, perhaps the House may be interested to hear what he has to say.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : Standing Order No. 15 provides—

*A substantive motion for the adjournment of the House shall not be made at any sitting before the conclusion of questions, and no such motion shall be made except by a member of the Council of Ministers, unless on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays a Member may rise in his place on the conclusion of question and ask for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.*

In pursuance of this Order, and in view of the fact that there is a very important Motion signed by 30 Members of Parliament, I would appeal to you Mr Speaker, to suspend all government business for the next four days and allow this House to debate the Motion.

Mr Speaker : A matter such as can cause the suspension of government business requires something more momentous than what this Motion is concerned with at present. The Order continues to say on the other hand that—

*The matter for discussion shall, if possible, be referred to Mr Speaker before the commencement of the day's sitting, and Mr Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.*

I do not consider that this matter is urgent.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : I have whole-heartedly accepted your ruling, Mr Speaker. But all the same, I shall raise another point of order. This latter one can be found under Section 67 of our Standing Orders.

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) : On a point of order—

Mr Speaker : Order ! Only one point of order can be raised at a time.

Alhaji Sarkin Bai : Section 67 reads—

*A question, the object or effect of which may be to suspend any standing order of the House, shall be proposed only with the consent of Mr Speaker, either after notice given or after the expression of the general assent of the House.*

In pursuance of this, I would ask the permission of the House to debate the urgent matter. I am sure that, as far as floor Members are concerned, there will be no dissentient voices. But I would appeal to the House to give me the chance in order that we may debate this Motion. We may not necessarily do that to-day; we may even do it tomorrow or Saturday.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : I am afraid that since Standing Order 15 has ruled out suspension of the business we have been handling, it is not possible for the Member for Dambatta (Alhaji Sarkin Bai) to move the Motion unless the Order is suspended. As a result of this, I do not think that I can give consent in this case unless I receive the general assent of the House. Perhaps it may be appropriate for me to ask for that assent now.

Is it the wish of the House ?

Several hon. Members : Yes !—No !

Mr Speaker : As the general assent of the House has not been obtained then permission is not given.

An hon. Member : On a point of order, I think it will be much better if you, Mr Speaker, will allow the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, the Member for Dambatta (Alhaji Sarkin Bai) to be debated. This Motion is not against any particular political party. It is in the interest of the nation that the Motion should be debated.

Mr Speaker : I am only refusing to allow this Motion to go on on the advice of the Members of this House and under the Standing Orders. Unless I have the general assent of the House, I do not think that it is proper for me to allow this Motion to be taken.

**PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS****CONSTITUTION OF MID-WESTERN NIGERIA BILL**

Bill to make provision for the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Prime Minister; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day.*

**INTERPRETATION BILL**

Bill to provide for the constitution and interpretation of Acts of Parliament and certain other instruments; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

**CONSTITUTION (INTERPRETATION) BILL**

Bill to provide for the application of the Interpretation Act, 1964, to the Constitution of the Federation; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read the Second time—*Tomorrow.*

**JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT BILL**

Bill to increase the number of Justices of the Supreme Court, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

**NATIONAL HONOURS BILL**

Bill to make provision with respect to titles of honour, decorations and other dignities, presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

**ELECTORAL BILL**

Bill to amend the Electoral Act, 1962, presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow.*

## PENSIONS BILL

Bill to provide for the grant of retirement benefits on the termination of approved employment and for the increase of certain pensions based on superseded scales of emoluments; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, presented by the Minister of Establishments; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

## EXPLOSIVES BILL

Bill to make further provision for the control of explosives for the purpose of maintaining and securing public safety; and for purposes connected therewith, presented by the Minister of Mines and Power; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Friday the 10th*.

LAGOS TOWN PLANNING  
(COMPENSATION) BILL

Bill to provide for the withholding of compensation payable under the Lagos Town Planning Act in respect of certain estates and interests in land; and for purposes connected with the matter aforesaid, presented by the Minister of Lagos Affairs; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*This Day*.

## AIR FORCE BILL

Bill to make provision for the establishment, government and discipline of the Nigeria Air Force and of an Air Force reserve and to provide for other matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto, presented by the Minister of Defence; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Friday the 10th*.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
(1962-63) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue of four hundred and eight thousand, and forty pounds for the purpose of making further provision for the service of the year which ended on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act; presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
(1963-64) BILL

Bill to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of four hundred and forty-five thousand, four hundred

and thirty pounds for the purpose of replacing advances from the Contingencies Fund and of making further provision for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act, presented by the Minister of Finance; read the First time; to be read a Second time—*Tomorrow*.

## MOTIONS

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

That, tomorrow, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64, the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1962-63) Bill shall be resumed and concluded and the period for the Second Reading of the Bill shall be deemed to have been thus complied with, and when read the Second time the Committee Stage of the Bill shall be taken and shall be concluded and the Bill read the Third time.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Hon. J. C. Obande): I beg to second.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural): It has become the practice of the Minister of Finance to try to rush the Business of this House. This is a money business and the country expects us to discuss it *in extenso*. Every now and then that we come here the Minister appears always to be in a hurry to get out of this House; whether he wants to go on tour or whatever he intends to do, we do not know. But this is a matter which should be given time and therefore I oppose the Motion moved by the Minister of Finance.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): I think if we are going to face the fact we should face the fact squarely. The Cabinet will have to live with the Parliament and die with the Parliament. If I can remember correctly, this House was to sit on the 27th November, but somehow the Government changed the date or put it back, as we say, to the 8th of January, which : to-day.

all of us who came to Lagos thought that we should spend at least two weeks here but to our surprise I understand that the sitting of the House will last for only four days.

Let me no longer conceal the painful truth. The truth is that there are until this morning well over 150 Private Members' Motions in the Order Book undebated. If we are going to sit every time for four days, when are we going to debate these Motions? Is it when the House is dissolved?

I appreciate the activities of the Minister of Finance both as the Leader of the House and the Minister of Finance but I must advise him always to get in touch with the Speaker and the Clerk to know how many Private Members' Motions are there in the Order Book, their importance and urgency and so on. Unless we are doing that I am afraid we are making a mockery of parliamentary democracy.

In any event, I hope the Minister of Finance will, in consultation with his other colleagues, reconsider his decision so that the sitting of the House will last at least till Tuesday night so that at least eight of those Motions will be disposed of. (*Applause*).

**Mr Speaker**: I notice that there have been cheers from the Gallery; that is not allowed.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): It is very refreshing to hear people say things when the shoe is on the other foot. I am very happy to hear the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Muhtari, Sarkin Bai*) speak in the vein he has spoken. This is the kind of thing we of the Opposition have been fighting against all these years. We come to the House determined to do some business in the interest of the nation and when we come, the Minister of Finance, for one reason or the other—I think not a very pleasant reason—streamrolls things and gives us shorter periods than what we expect, as the Alhaji said.

I also came to this town and most of my hon. friends came here with the hope that they were going to spend at least ten to fourteen days. What is the rush behind it? It was only yesterday I read in the papers—a release from the Member for Owerri West (*Mr R. B. Okafor*)—that it is going to be only four days. I feel that if the Government has anything to hide they should keep their house in

order. They have not kept it in order so much so that a leading member of the N.P.C. has got up to say so. I say that it is refreshing for us of the Opposition Bench.

Therefore, I am appealing to hon. Members from all sides of the House, to appeal to the Minister of Finance, so that he may not hurry this Parliament. Let us continue; we are here for what we are paid for and so, we should stay on for at least eight days and debate these Motions.

We are therefore opposing this Motion very vehemently and we hope Members from all sides of the House will support us, particularly the N.P.C. because the shoe is on the other foot.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): It will be noticed by hon. Members that the first opposer of this Motion is the Member for Ilesha Rural (Rev. Akinyemi) and quite honestly I do not blame him because that is characteristic of short people. (*Laughter*).

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East): On a point of Order, I realise that we allow jokes in this House but when they develop into personal abuses I do not know what we are turning this House into. I just wonder what the hon. Minister of Finance will feel if somebody wishes to refer to him and calls him a "fat pig".

**The Speaker**: Order, order. I do not think it is an abuse to be called short when one is short. I think one cannot do anything but just accept it as such.

**The Minister of Finance**: The position is that hon. Members should take into consideration the convenience of other people, and my hon. Friend Alhaji Sarkin Bai, with very great respect to him, has certainly realised the fact that he was not speaking for the people on the other side of the House when he wants this House to be prolonged. Therefore, the Government, as the father of all, must take into consideration all the interests of all the people concerned and not the interest of one individual.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): On a point of order, the Government is the servant of the people, and it is that attitude of the mind that makes the Parliamentary Leader to rush and run things as in a private company.

**Mr Speaker** : That is not a point of order ! **Mr Akomolafe** : I still can teach you.

**The Minister of Finance** : What I was saying is this. The Government takes into consideration the interest of all in the Republic but not the interest of a single individual and if hon. Members had waited until I make my Business Statement before they shoot perhaps it would have been better because they would have been better enlightened as to the business of the House.

When Government desires to summon Parliament it just does not do so because Private Members have filed a number of Private Motions, most of which—and in this regard I do not refer to any particular Motion—are useless.

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado South) : On a point of order, I wish to state that for the Minister to say that Motions filed by hon. Members are useless is an insult to hon. Members and to the country as a whole. I would, therefore, like the Minister to withdraw the statement that Members file useless Motions. It is a great insult to this country.

**The Minister of Finance** : All I would like to say is this. We have our Standing Orders, and if Members have a particular Motion of real importance they should certainly take action as had already been taken by the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) on the Floor of this House. What remains of it is that, as the Speaker has rightly pointed out, it must have the general assent of the House. If it has not, that is the end of the matter.

Perhaps Members have not even seen the Bill, because if they had seen it they would not have made all this fuss about their points ; what I am doing is to take it up as already indicated. The 1962-63 Supplementary Appropriation Bill has nothing there to strike anybody and will not warrant any lengthy debate.

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : We are not treating the Bill yet.

**The Minister of Finance** : I am in a position to tell the Member for Ekiti North East (*Mr Akomolafe*) because he is ignorant of the Bill. Until Members see the Bill they cannot justifiably say anything about it. The Member for Ekiti North East is not speaking on school method, and he should understand that.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North) : I do not intend to quarrel about the days, but, I think, with due respect to the hon. Minister of Finance, I take serious objection to his attempt to buttress a useless interjection by describing Members' Motions as useless. That is an insult to hon. Members, and let me hope that this will be the last time any Member of the Cabinet will attempt to describe Members' Motions as useless. Everybody is elected by his people.

**Mr Speaker** : Order ! The Minister of Finance has not specifically said that Members' Motions are useless. What the Minister said was that the Meeting of the House should not be convened because of Members' Motions, most of which are useless.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde** (Ilorin Central) : Everybody knows in this honourable House that I have always supported the Leader of the House, and he is more than a friend to me. We are not saying that this Motion should be tabled right now, but to come here and go back home without our important Motion being touched seems as if the Government is afraid, and all it has been telling the whole nation is false. Any man in the street will disown the statement over which we are quarelling. We shall not endure that our brothers in South Africa should suffer unnecessarily. It is an important Motion. The whole nation is ready to hear it. If anybody is strong to put up his case let us go on with it and let the public judge the case.

In my opinion we should not leave this House without debating this Motion and thereby encroach on the freedom of speech of Members of this House by making arrangements so that there will be no Private Members Day. That is a cheat.

**Mr Speaker** : I think we have spent quite a long time on this rather uncontroversial Motion.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64, the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1962-63) Bill shall be resumed and concluded and the period for the Second Reading of the Bill shall be deemed to have been thus complied with, and when read the

Second time the Committee Stage of the Bill shall be taken and shall be concluded and the Bill read the Third time.

### BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Some of the points in the Business Statement have been overtaken by events. The Bills that have been laid on the Table will be debated as indicated by the Prime Minister and other Ministers responsible for the Bills.

As the Prime Minister has already indicated, the Second Reading and other stages of the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria Bill and the Lagos Town Planning (Compensation) Bill will be taken to-day. Tomorrow, the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) Bill will be moved and the Second Reading and the remaining stages of the following Bills will be taken : Supplementary Appropriation (1962-63) Bill, the Interpretation Bill, the Constitution (Interpretation) Bill, the Justices of the Supreme Court Bill, the National Honours Bill, and the Electoral Bill.

Four Resolutions will be moved to confirm the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Orders, 1963.

On Friday the debate on the Second Reading of the Second Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) Bill will take place.

The Second Reading and the remaining stages of the following Bills will also be taken : the Pensions Bill, the Explosives Bill, and the Air Force Bill.

It is proposed that the Meeting should be concluded on Friday in order to allow hon. Members to travel back to their constituencies in good time for the *Ramadan* fast and for other constituencies engagements.

If I may add this : hon. Members who have been fighting for prolongation of the period of time we have to spend here must watch their steps. Naturally, hon. Members like the Member opposite, who have no hope of coming back to this House may well come and stay here. Other Members who wish to come back here will certainly want to go back to their constituencies in order to work for the next general election.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## CONSTITUTION OF MID-WESTERN NIGERIA BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Prime Minister :** I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria and for purposes connected therewith be read a Second time.

This is a fairly long Bill. It contains the Constitutional Instrument of the new Region of Mid-Western Nigeria. I think it will be rather a waste of time of the House if I make a long speech in introducing the Bill. The Bill has followed the pattern of the Constitutional Instrument obtaining in the other three Regions with this exception—in the Northern Region House of Assembly, representation is based on one Member per 100,000 people. In the Eastern Region, and in the West, I think the representation is based on one Member per 50,000 people. In this Constitution which is before hon. Members, the representation on the average in the Mid-Western Nigeria, is one Member per 30,000 people.

It is proposed that we have a House of Assembly of 68 elected Members in the draft Bill before you, but I hope to bring in an Amendment later on during the Committee Stage of the Bill. We also proposed to have a House of Chiefs.

Members will also see that in this Instrument is contained a provision for special areas in order to give the minorities a special position in the new Region. Hence, I say that this Bill is a result of exhaustive discussions among all the parties concerned in the new Region, and I hope that this House which has established it as its practice always to endorse the wishes of the people directly concerned, will endorse the wishes of the people of the Mid-West Region.

The House will be aware that the Mid-West Interim Administration will come to an end about the 8th of February, so we are racing against time and if we are to get the new Region started and if we wish to have an elected Government in the Region, we must do everything possible to see that a new House is elected before the 8th of February; and it is

my intention that there should be an election in the new Region very soon. So, I commend the Bill to the House.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to second.

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiti North East) : Constitutional Bills, no matter how straightforward, and no matter how very exhaustively they may have been debated before being promulgated, are Bills of the highest importance which determine the future of any nation; as a result of that, they should not, in practice, be discussed within a matter of hours and passed. The people who drafted the Bill have had sufficient time to study it. They may also have had time to consult with the people concerned, but Constitutional Bill is a matter for the whole country and, therefore, the Federal Parliament should have sufficient time to debate it in detail and *in extenso* when it is brought before it.

That reminds me of the almost criminal way in which the Federal Constitution Bill, which ushered us into republicanism, was discussed. That heavy Bill which we thought we would be allowed to study for a period of two or three weeks, and which in the normal circumstance in which Constitutional Bills are discussed in other countries of the world, could have gone to all parts of the country and different shades of opinions could have been given on paper by writing to Members of Parliament, and which views could have been brought together in the House and discussed for days on end.

Alternatively, if we are very keen, as the Leader of the House is, to shorten the time we spend here, it is possible, as we have said from time to time, that this House should have permanent Standing Committees as is done in other places.

If we had a Standing Committee, for instance, for constitutional matters, it would have been their duty to have discussed this Bill. Perhaps they might have been called into committees for some two or three months before now and their report could have accompanied this Bill which is presented to us this morning. Our job could thus, have been simplified.

There is no reason why we could not have Standing Committees on various aspects of the jobs of the Parliament. If there were a Standing Committee on Finance, people would have very much to quarrel about in the short time within which we are going to discuss this matter.

I will give an instance on this Bill. Our hon. Prime Minister, with due deference to him, said that he was going to suggest an Amendment to the number of seats in the House of Assembly in the Mid-West. Whether he is going to increase or decrease the number, I do not know. But I wish to say that by the time we have the election in the Mid-West, we will be having five Governments in this country. It is not unlikely that in ten years, we shall have ten Governments. We know how many Governments there are in the United States of America; but if in every Region, we have such a large number of Members who are paid at the rate at which we are being paid now, where are we going to get the money to develop the country?

I think that the only Government which has a right to be large in this country is the Federal Parliament. Besides, every other Region or Region-to-be in this country has a right to reduce its membership, so that the Federal Parliament may be satisfied that the money which is being given to each Region, is being spent for the development of the country and not being spent on personal emoluments of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries—especially where you have fifty or sixty Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in a House which has under ninety members, as is the case in one place in this country for instance.

That is one of the things which I would like our respected Prime Minister to put into consideration. There is need for this country to reduce the number of seats in our Regional Legislatures and Regional Legislatures-to-be, so that most of the money which is being provided by the people should be spent for the development of the country and not for paying personal emoluments to Members of Legislatures.

The other point is that I quite realise that there is need for a permanent government to come to the people of Mid-West, but if it is

discovered that for one reason or another, the stage is not properly set, a delay of a few weeks, will be far better than to rush things up only to discover in the end that certain mistakes have been made. We have learnt enough in this country and should therefore avoid things that will bring us any difficulty.

Therefore, I strongly suggest that this Constitution needs to be very carefully debated and I would wish the Prime Minister to give us the assurance that even when it comes to the Committee Stage, we will be given sufficient time to be able to pin-point certain aspects of the Constitution which I think are amended.

**Mr A. Opia** (Aboh) : In supporting the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria Bill, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the Amendment proposed under Clause 6—Composition of the House of Assembly.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think you can speak on the Amendment that has not already been proposed.

**Mr Opia :** In supporting this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of Mr Speaker to the Delimitation Committee report which has actually provided for 65 constituencies instead of the original 68.

Well, looking at Aboh division particularly, where I come from, I feel that injustice has been actually done in the way seats have been allocated to this division. This division has a population of 126,000 and 4 seats have been clearly allocated to this constituency, instead of the original 6 seats. Looking at constituencies like Akoko Edo, Isoko and Western Ijaw divisions, one would see that Isoko Division, for instance, has a population of 60,000.

**An hon. Member :** It is a special area.

**Mr Opia :** It is a special area, but I feel that justice has not been done. There must be a principle based on population on which the distribution of seats should be made.

**Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** (Urhobo East) : On a point of information, Isoko division is not 60,000 but 70,000.

**Mr Speaker :** May I point out to the hon. Member that this is probably a detail which we could discuss at Committee Stage or when we

[MR SPEAKER]

come to discuss the Schedule and of course, it may probably be a matter that could have been brought before the Delimitation Committee. We had better put it off until we come to the Committee Stage where you could discuss it more fully.

**Mr Opia :** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I would leave the details of this Bill till we come to the Committee Stage.

When the Prime Minister was making his speech, he made reference to the Amendment of the original 68 seats to 65 and I feel that this is a point which is very very vital, having in mind that there are two particular divisions that have been clearly affected by the proposal which the Prime Minister has just put to this House. Therefore, I would like to say that the decrease from 68 to 65 constituencies should be worked in such a proportion that no particular constituency should be cheated. I have in mind Asaba and Aboh divisions in this matter. It is unfair; even though this is not the time to go into the details of the Bill, I feel strongly that the imbalance is strong and glaring. I am, therefore, appealing to the Prime Minister for the sake of justice at least, to see that the 68 seats or 68 constituencies are left to stand. I feel that if it is not done, it will be most unfair to the people of Asaba and Aboh divisions.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi (Afenmai East) :** I would like to refer to the aspirations of the people of Mid-West for a state and to say that we are happy that the state has been created. In this connection, we should like to congratulate the Prime Minister, the leaders of the N.C.N.C. in the Mid-West, the leaders of the N.P.C. and the leaders of the then A.G. and now M.D.F., for the role they have played to bring into reality the creation of the Mid-West state.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** On a point of order, it will appear as if it is only the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) and his friends who are members of the Mid-West Democratic Front. The Action Group is still there in the Mid-West.

**Mr Obi :** I do not want to go into dispute with anybody until the elections. The elections will prove us right. I would like to thank the Prime Minister particularly for the role he has played. We would like to say also that we are happy too, that an all-party government was

set up in the Interim Administration of the Mid-West and of course, there was the impression that the Administration was going to be dominated by the N.C.N.C., but later it was quickly detected that that party cannot rule progressively and peacefully. We are happy for the role the M.D.F. is playing.

**The Minister of Finance :** On a point of order, I am basing my point of order on irrelevancy and imputation of bad motives. I am sure that it is not worthy of a man of Mr Obi's type to try to malign a great political party like the N.C.N.C. and make improper motives that somebody realised that the N.C.N.C. cannot rule properly. The Prime Minister is there for everybody and what he has done is acceptable to everybody in the Mid-West. That is the fact of it.

**Mr Speaker :** Will hon. Members please avoid turning the Floor of this House into a political quarrel field.

**Mr Speaker :** Will hon. Members please avoid turning the Floor of the House into a political quarrelling forum.

**Mr Obi :** The Bill—the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria Bill—makes provision for a House of Chiefs and a House of Assembly. There is also a provision for 68 or 65 elected members for the House of Assembly. I would like to say that in the Western Nigeria Constitution and in the Constitution of the other Regions of the Federation, as far as I can remember, there is usually a member of the House of Chiefs from every Regional constituency. Granting that we have 68 or 65 members of the House of Chiefs, it means that there is no provision for all the Regional constituencies to be able to elect a chief of their own choice. I feel this position should be rectified.

There is also a specific mention of names of certain chiefs in the Mid-West to be *ex-officio* members of the House of Chiefs. In the other Regions no such specific names are mentioned. I agree that the Oba of Benin and the Olu of Warri are first-class chiefs, but provision should be made probably for a number of chiefs, say, ten chiefs in the Mid-West to be *ex-officio* members of the House of Chiefs, and we have no doubt that these two chiefs would be included. It is something very ambiguous to mention two chiefs and say that the number of such chiefs shall not exceed ten.

**Mr Speaker :** This is a point pertaining to one clause and should have been left until we came to the Committee Stage when we would be in a position to discuss the Bill clause by clause.

**Mr Obi :** I would also like to make reference to the provision for Special Areas. I believe that what is considered in making an area special is nothing but language. It is not to be disputed that the whole of the Mid-West is composed of various ethnic groups with different languages. If language is the only consideration, it means that every ethnic or linguistic group should be made a special area.

I am not quarrelling with the allocation of seats, but with the provision that only certain people belonging to particular areas are qualified to contest election in those particular areas. For example, in Warri Division, only Itsekiris are allowed to contest elections. This is unfair because there are Urhobos, Ijaws, and other ethnic groups in that area. This is very discriminatory. Take again the question of Akoko Edo in Afenmai Division. There provision is made only for the Yoruba-speaking people. The people in that Division are not all Yoruba-speaking; we have people from Ineme and other areas. This means that the provision which even qualifies a non-Nigerian to contest an election is being overlooked in this type of provision—restricting qualification to special ethnic groups in an area. It is most unfair because if a person had been residing in an area for, say, two years, and if even he was not born there, he should qualify to contest an election there. This provision should not be allowed to remain.

I was going to refer too to the fact that population is not taken into account in the distribution of some of these seats. Take, for example, Benin Division with a population of 292,244. Warri Division which has a population of only 64,444 will have the privilege of being given four seats. Take the Afenmai Division, for example. Afenmai Division is the biggest in the whole of the Mid-West, with a population of 39,000 people to vote. There is none other Division as big as that. I was wondering when people were making some reference to Aboh and Asaba alone. My point is that if language is the only consideration, every ethnic group in the Mid-West is a special area and, therefore, should be entitled to equal treatment.

On the position of Parliament, we shouted at the top of our voices when we were considering the Republican Constitution for the whole country, that the provision to make it impossible for a Parliament to remain in office simply because there is a vote of no confidence in the Government, is most unsatisfactory. The leader of any party that has a majority in the House should be called upon to form a new Government. The provision here is the same as in the Republican Constitution: once the House loses confidence in the Premier, that means a dissolution of Parliament.

We feel that that provision is not quite nice. I feel also that 68 or 65 seats are too many for a Region like the Mid-West because we are just starting. We should learn a lesson from the other Regions. There is also provision for Provincial Assemblies and then we are going to have 68 or 65 members!

What confronts the people of the Mid-West more is how best to find means to maintain social services which are the things the masses should benefit from the Government, rather than making provision for one hundred and one offices simply because certain individuals are to be pleased. I think that should not occupy our minds more than finding means of running the Region. The number of seats is too much for a Region of the size of the Mid-West.

I also feel that it is unnecessary to assemble a House of this nature to approve a Constitution. I do not know if it is the wish of certain politicians to deliberately depart from a written Constitution because they happen to be in a position either to rule or not to rule. I would like to make a specific reference to what is now happening in the Mid-West. The Prime Minister was kind enough to appoint an All-Party Government in the Mid-West. I can remember that when we met in August there was a Bill which made provision for the establishment of an interim administration in the Mid-West. That Bill does not give any specific powers to any Commissioner in that administration to act independently of the decision of the administrative council. There are, however, certain Commissioners there now who have taken it into their heads to appoint tax assessment committee members, and even when the Executive Council decided against such a move, they refused to yield. I would like to refer specifically to the Commissioner in

[MR OBI]

charge of Local Government in the Mid-West. People are being appointed from the back-door to assess non-supporters of the N.C.N.C. arbitrarily to pay a tax of £24, £40.

I would like the Prime Minister to take special note of this and to intervene very quickly before things get out of hand, because people who do not support the N.C.N.C. are to be victimised if they fail to pay any illegally-assessed tax. If intervention is not seen to very quickly, I think the people who are responsible for this type of action are inviting a breakdown of law and order in the Mid-West. We do not want such a thing to happen, and so I would like the Prime Minister to take a special note of this.

Finally, I hope by the time the Committee Stage is reached, we shall consider the Bill clause by clause and make sure that Clauses 4, 7 and 14 of the Bill are amended. I have already given notice to move amendments in Committee.

I beg to support.

**Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo Central):** I rise to speak in support of the Second Reading of the Bill. It is a matter for joy that in the place of the Mid-West Transitional Provision Act we now have before us a Constitution which is to be operated by an elected Government. In the heat of our anxiety to get the new Region going with an elected Government, no true Mid-Westerner would like to see that the passage of this Constitution is delayed for one minute.

But what is worth doing at all is worth doing well, and so I have some observations to make. My observations concern the peculiarities of the Mid-Western Nigeria Constitution when compared with the Constitution of the other Regions. It may well be that the Mid-West area is a peculiar area and must have a peculiar Constitution. I observe that the Constitution now before this House spelt out the Oba of Benin and the Olu of Warri as *ex officio* members of the House of Chiefs. In other Regions, traditional members of the House of Chiefs are done by regulation. In fact, no one quarrels with anything which tends to dignify the position of the Oba of Benin, not merely because of the role he played in the battle for the creation of the Mid-West State but because he holds a unique position in relation to other

Obas, Obis, Ivies, Enigies and so on, in the indigenous and traditional government institutions of the Mid West area. But the impression must not be given that people who are politicians in the Mid-West area are people who are likely to treat the Oba of Benin with less dignity, and so the spelling out of the Oba of Benin and the Olu of Warri in the Constitution appears to me to be uncalled for because, in their own rights, it is quite obvious that they will become members of the House of Chiefs. If the qualification for doing so were due to the fact that these two Obas are division heads in their own areas, it may lead to nothing. It may lead to this that all the other Obis, Ivies and Enigies in the Mid-West will begin to request the Government to create their areas as divisions, because if you go by the standard of qualification, there are many in some of the divisions whose population is greater than the Warri Division for that matter. It means that as time goes on we will have unlimited number of divisions in the Mid-West area. It is put there that those who qualify to be *ex officio* members will be accepted by the Government or the prescribed authorities. I would have expected that the whole thing would have been left alone and that those who we all know are qualified would be recognised by the government in power in the area.

The next point is the question of special areas. This question appears to me to be overdone in the sense that when we say that we protect the minorities, it does not mean that we have to protect them and make them have excess. There could be excess with the minorities asking for too many things, with the result that they have more advantages over the majority.

Now, in Warri the ethnic group to which the special area is concerned is only limited to the Itsekiri ethnic group. That would mean that there are other tribal groups who are indigenous natives of Warri Division but who would not be able to stand for elections in their own area. I lived in Warri since 1950 and I have a house there, yet, I would not claim that I belong to Warri Division. I am from Central Urhobo in Urhobo Division and I belong to what I call the floating community in Warri. But there are other people who have been born and bred in Warri who are natives of Warri. Take some of the Urhobo people and

some of the Ijaw people who are born and bred there and they are part and parcel of Warri Division. How on earth can we say that such people should be relegated to the background when it comes to exercising their civic right of standing for elections in their own area where they are born? I can leave Warri and go to my home to settle, but these people have no second home. Their own home is in Warri Division. Therefore, if we create a special area it will be better also to include—I think we should mention them since we mentioned Itsekiri—the Ijaws and the Urhobos in Warri Division. But if we say the people who are permanently domiciled in Warri, the definition includes the Urhobos and the Ijaws who are permanently resident and domiciled there all their lives traditionally. Well, I have no quarrel with that at all. But I feel it is necessary to protect the interest of these people. They should not be completely ruled out from what they are entitled to have in an area where they are born and bred.

The second thing is this. I know there are other points that one would have to argue against the present Constitution. But all Constitutions are subject to review, just like the Richard's Constitution which we said was going to be operated for nine years, but had to go to the people or the politicians for revision after only three years. So I know this would not be cut and dried, and it would be improper for one to prolong the debate because of the flaws in the Constitution. I do hope that this is the last stage and we want to see the Region going, but I would not consider it to be the last straw that breaks the camel's back. That is the reason why I feel that for the happiness and the prosperity of the people of the whole area, which is the sole purpose why the State is created, it would be wrong to create a condition where some people will begin to feel: "Why is it that we have this State? We should not have had it at all". We do not want such a condition to be created. As I said, the constitution should not be the last straw that breaks the camel's back. It should be one that will usher in an era of prosperity, justice and fairplay to the people of the Mid-West.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. E. Ukuoku (Urhobo West):** I am grateful to have this opportunity to make my maiden speech—(Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker:** Order, order! It is, I think, the courteous tradition of this House that maiden speeches are not interrupted.

**An hon. Member:** From what ethnic group?

**Mr Ukuoku:** I am from Urhobo.

As I was saying, I am grateful for this opportunity to make my maiden speech. It has been interesting indeed that I won the election for the first time in the southern state of Nigeria as the first N.P.C. candidate.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** On a point of order. N.P.C., I understand, is Northern People's Congress!

**Mr Ukuoku:** I am aware that some hon. Members have formed the impression that this election has been a personal victory for me and not for the N.P.C. I must say that it has been a personal victory for me as well as for the N.P.C.

I am going to speak a bit on sections 4 and 5 of this Constitution. I am happy that most hon. Members who have spoken have talked about the inclusion of the Olu of Warri and the Oba of Benin as *ex officio* members in the Constitution. It is most awful. I think it is done to please one person. If we are going to live in this country and we are to please the personality of one person, it is going to be a great calamity. These two Obas were first-class Chiefs in the former House of Assembly in Western Nigeria. Their titles and designations have been inserted in the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria; this is very, very wrong indeed. When we come to the Committee Stage of this Bill, I would like to speak more about this.

Clauses 7 and 14 of the Constitution are very important and very dear to my heart. In Warri Division, there are three ethnic groups: these are the Itsekiris, Urhobos and the Ijaws. I happened to have married an Ijaw girl from that division—(Interruptions). We have entrenched fundamental human rights in our Constitution and we are trying to deny those fundamental human rights so well entrenched in the Constitution. This law that we are trying to pass has no comparison anywhere in the Federation, nor in the world for that matter. It is equivalent to the laws of South Africa where the whiteman can have nothing to do with the black lady, and the reverse is impossible—punishable by death.

[Mr UKUEKU]

That is the only comparison that I have for this law. If an Itshekiri man is so powerful and wield a lot of influence and he stays in Sapele, he can contest an election there. But an Urhobo man cannot win an election in Warri. What a law is that? Such a law is to please one single individual in the Nigerian politics.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): What is his name?

**Mr Ukueku**: You know him very well. If we are going to have a Constitution in this country that is to please one individual, that is not a Constitution at all.

**Mr Briggs**: Is it Chief Okotie-Eboh?

**Mr Ukueku**: Itshekiris are not the only people in Warri. There are many Urhobos in Warri Division and they have land and properties there; in fact the land upon which the Hussey College has been built was bought from an Urhobo man by the Rewane family: the land upon which Commissioner Egbe built his own house was bought from the Bazumu family and they are Urhobo people living in that division. They have properties in Warri and then this Constitution now denies them the right to contest an election. What a law! During the Committee Stage, I would like to discuss this line by line.

Lastly, there are also Ijaws in this Division and they cover a lot of area—Gbaramatu, Sekerawu, Egbeoma and so forth. In fact, these people are more populated than the Itshekiri people in Warri Division. There are about 3,000 Itshekiris in the Warri Division, and these minority people will now rule the others in the Division. Why should we have a law like this? In Warri Urban District, there are 17,000 voters, and less than 3,000 of these are Itshekiris, and these Itshekiris have the right to contest election and be voted for and the other 14,000 people have no right to contest election and be voted for. This is fundamentally wrong; it is wrong to include this in the Constitution. I therefore implore Mr Speaker that when we come to the Committee Stage of this Bill, Clauses 7 and 14 should be expunged from this Constitution.

Thank you very much.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): I will start by congratulating the Government for bringing up this Bill at this time. I congratulate

late the Government because it is their desire not to subject the people of the Mid-West to a government not elected by them.

I feel that this is the beginning of the creation of more States in the country, and so at the time that we are passing this Bill, the other minority areas will be satisfied that some day more Regions will be created in their own areas. I hope the Prime Minister will see to this. We are tired in this country of hearing people saying that more States will not be created at one time or the other. We expect and we are sure that more States will soon be created.

The Prime Minister this morning said that one member would represent 30,000 people in the Mid-West, and it is the smallest of all the figure he gave. If one member can represent 100,000 in the North and one member represents 50,000 in both the East and the West, I do not see why one Member should not represent 50,000 people in the Mid-West, thereby reducing the number of members from 68 to, say 30. Before the Mid-West was created, each member must have represented some 50,000 or more people in the Western House of Assembly, because there were only 30 members in that House from the Mid-West. The number has increased from 30 to 68. I agree with the people who say that this is a waste of public revenue. The public revenue of this country should not be used only in paying the salaries of Members of the Houses of Assembly.

I expect too that immediately after election has been held in the Mid-West, something should be done in the Western Region—I mean the remaining part of the Western Region. The Mid-West and the West were one Region some six months ago and they were subjected to a sort of administration which was not elected by them. Now that the Mid-West is having an opportunity of electing a new government, I think, at this point, I can appeal to the Prime Minister to remember the rest of the West. The Mid-West is facing an election very soon and, therefore, the rest of the Western Region should also face an election because the people of the Western Region are tired of an imposed Government.

I congratulate the people of the Mid-West because they will soon go to the polls to elect the Government of their own choice. The rest of the Western Region, which is now the

true West, should also go to the polls to elect their own Government. Those of us who come from the West are not happy about what is happening in the West. We want to elect our own Government and the Premier there should be asked, or at least should be advised, by the Prime Minister to go to the polls because—

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) should realise that the Prime Minister has no right to order an election in the Western Region, even though we want democratic election in any part of the Federation.

**Mr Speaker**: That is a point of information.

**Mr Gbolagunte**: Thank you for that point of information. The Mid-West is going to be one of the Regions in the Federation and we want co-operation in the Federation. If one Region is suffering, the other Regions will eventually suffer. What happened in the West is affecting the whole Federation financially. I am only asking the Prime Minister to advise (not to declare) an election in the West.

I hope that the Government that will be elected in the Mid-West will not make every Member of the House of Assembly a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, because that will be a waste of the poor revenue of the Mid-West. The Minister of Finance also knows that the Mid-West is very poor: he said so at one time. The Mid-West is very poor, and to have 68 Members will still impoverish it. It will be worse if every Member of that House is made a Minister, as is the case somewhere else.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of information, I do not want the Member for Ibarapa (*Mr Gbolagunte*) to misquote me here. I have never at any time said that the Mid-West is poor.

**Mr Gbolagunte**: Before we go too far, I do not mind who governs the Mid-West after the election. But whoever governs the Mid-West after the election should be advised not to make smuggling of Members a virtue. As it has happened in the Federal House, I think it will repeat itself in the Region if we do not warn the people now. Right here this morning, many Members were smuggled from the Opposition side, especially from the U.P.P. side.

I think those hon. Members smuggled to the N.P.C. side deserve to be so smuggled, but the Northern Peoples Congress should be warned that it should desist from enticing other faithful Members. As things stand now I very much

pray for whosoever will govern the Mid-West after the elections, for the situation in that new Region is confusing. And until the elections have come and gone, the Mid-Western people will not know where they belong or where they are heading to.

There is a provision in the constitution for appeals to be made to the high courts, but there is none for the creation of subordinate courts. Subordinate courts, as we know them, include the customary courts, the magistrate courts, *et cetera*, and these have been known to be used as an instrument to stifle Opposition Members.

It is true that we have said that the Judicial Service Commission should be scrapped, but we do not say that the establishment of courts of appeal for the new Region should be placed in the hands of politicians. I am saying that, at least, the Mid-Western Region should be left as a special Region by not giving powers to the politicians to create courts of appeal but to carry on with the Judicial Service Commission because already the people are complaining that the courts are victimising them.

I know very well that the new constitution for the new Region is almost a carbon copy of that of the Western Region, and I therefore suspect that what is happening in the West may happen in the Mid-West. For instance, in the Western Region at the present time some customary courts are being dissolved by the ruling politicians. There is one good feature in the constitution and that is the absence of a deportation clause. I do hope that the Mid-Western politicians will not introduce this later on.

I now come to the question of residential qualification. In the Federal Constitution anybody who wants to contest election in the North has to be resident in any particular area in the North for three years; in the East it is one year; in the West it is one year. Now in the case of the Mid-West it is also one year. I am not quarrelling with the residential qualification of the North, but I am appealing to the Prime Minister to make that of the new Region two years.

I must congratulate the Federal Government for giving the Mid-Western people their new Region and, at the same time, allowing them to elect their own people. I do not know who will be the Premier, but whosoever becomes the chief minister should by all means try to satisfy the aspirations of all shades of opinion.

I beg to support the Bill.



**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria. I am doing so in order to put on record my support for the creation of this fourth Region, and to congratulate the Interim Administration for the peaceful and successful manner in which they have carried out their assignment. My praise also goes to the Federal Government for the vigilance they have exercised these past months.

In creating this fourth Region in the Republic two things stand out. The first is that we are assembled here only to give weight to the wishes of the Mid-Western people themselves. They asked for their own state and we have given it to them.

The second is that we have shown the world that Nigeria is a democratic country—a country where people get their rights according to the law, and where the wishes of the people are respected.

While on this second point I wish to recall the age-long interpretation of the word 'democracy' as defined by Abraham Lincoln, which is government of the people, by the people, for the people. We have four Regional Governments run by the people and which cater for the people. May I ask hon. Members that in the interest of our country they should refrain from making unwarranted comments about Northernisation, Easternisation, Westernisation or even Mid-Westernisation. They should instead do their best to ensure lasting unity among their countrymen.

The set-up of this Republic has made it possible for the Federal Government to look after the welfare of the entire people of the Federation; while the Regional Governments look after the interests of their respective people, *i.e.*, the Eastern Government for the Easterners; the Western Government for the Westerners; the Northern Government for the Northerners; and now the Mid-Western Government for the people of the Mid-West.

It is therefore not in the interest of this Republic for anyone to try to pick quarrel with whatever policy is introduced by any Regional Government for the well-being of its people. I wish to express that now is the time that we have been praying for. The peaceful and prosperous Federal Republic of Nigeria protecting and promoting the best interests of our country and our peoples should be encouraged

and we should pray for unity at all times as the best solution for our solidarity, peace and harmony.

I wish to wind up by wishing the Mid-Westerners success in their new Region and congratulating the Federal Government for their good stewardship in our Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development (Mr F. U. Mbakogu) 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.*

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time, and immediately considered in Committee.*

CONSTITUTION OF MID-WESTERN NIGERIA  
BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-4—ordered to stand part of the Bill*

*Clause 5—(COMPOSITION OF HOUSE OF CHIEFS)*

**Mr U. O. Ayeni** (Afenmai North West): I want to call your attention to Clause 5 (a). I would have thought that arrangements should be made that each of the ten divisions of the new Region should have a first-class chief. I think one of the fundamental reasons why we advocated for a Region was because no recognition was given to a number of our chiefs in the Western Region.

In this constitution which we are making, we are only putting out just two, out of the very many. I think it will be proper and in the interest of the Obas and first-class chiefs if we have one first-class chief appointed to represent one division in the Region. I should have thought that each regional constituency should be entitled to have one member in the House of Chiefs. That is, that we should have equal number of Members in the two Houses.

**Mr J. E. Ukuoku** (Urhobo West): I beg to move the following Amendment—

Clause 5, page C246, line 42, leave out "the Oba of Benin, the Olu of Warri and the persons for the time holding such other chieftaincies as may be prescribed by the Governor" and insert "ten first-class chiefs appointed to represent the ten divisions of the Region."

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): It does not appear as if the mover of the Amendment consulted anybody before he moved it. It is not supported and therefore, it should be brushed aside and ignored.

The provision of *ex-officio* members in the constitution has its advantages. It has also its disadvantages. But what I want to say here is that there is no quarrel whatsoever with the names there because those are the people who control whole areas or divisions. There is no reason for fixing one in each division because the others do not control divisions. It should be left free for the Government of the day to pick which ever person is considered fit for the appointment at the time.

The only word I would like to quarrel with there is the word "*ex-officio*". It appeared in the Western Nigeria Gazette. If it is deleted it does not remove the effect of the membership of the two persons put there, but it removes the difficulty of interpretation if any matter crops up in the law court.

The word "*ex-officio*" in any organisation always has a residual meaning. It is capable of two interpretations, either that these two are the first or they are the last. Now in the Interpretation Bill which will follow perhaps some days later, it has also the interpretation difficulties which are contained in this constitution we are now discussing.

There is nothing to defend "*ex-officio*". It is all there and there is no body quarrelling with these things, but in view of the fact that many people are moving Amendments and quarrelling with these things, it is necessary to safeguard the position of the Government. The word "*ex-officio*" creates an ambiguity. It is capable of two interpretations.

I would ask the hon. Prime Minister to please look into the word and remove it from the constitution. I am not talking about the membership of the persons concerned.

**Mr J. K. de-Omomadia** (Urhobo East): If the purpose of creating the Mid-West Region is to allay the fears of the people of this place, then I am afraid the insertion of this clause in the constitution, providing for two paramount rulers of their own tribes as *ex-officio* members of the House of Chief, gives fears to other minority areas in the Region.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): On a point of order, there is a stranger on the Floor of this House.

**The Chairman**: No, he is not a stranger. He is one of the clerks who have been granted permission to move about and help us in the House.

**Mr de-Omomadia**: I come from a minority area in the Mid-West. I would like to say that the fears of the traditional rulers of my area should be protected. Therefore I would not like this clause to be inserted here.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East): I want to talk about this question of inserting the names of the Oba of Benin, and the Olu of Warri. An hon. Member has suggested that the insertion of the names of these two rulers has been necessitated by the fact that they are each controlling a division.

I should have thought that the numerical strength of a division should depend much on the population of the division. For example, in the case of Warri, we have 40 thousand people making up the division and there are other Obas who are actually controlling well over 30 thousand people within the area which are not declared as divisions. How on earth then could somebody controlling 40 thousand persons be regarded as more important than somebody controlling 40 to 50 thousand people?

This beats my imagination; and so it is my view that these two specific cases of the Oba of Benin and the Olu of Warri, should be deleted and instead a first-class chief be created in each of the division to make it possible for every division to be represented in the House of Chiefs. That is my submission, Mr Chairman.

**Mr J. B. Eboighodi** (Asaba West): Mr Chairman, why it is necessary for the Members of this House to criticise this clause vehemently is that according to section 5 of the Nigerian Constitution, it is the business of this Federal House to make a constitution for the new Region. If it were the Constitution made by a Region only brought here for our sanction we could not have been so critical about it. In my opinion, since we are making a constitution for this new Region it is of importance to us to copy a similar section, say that of the Eastern Region. If you would grant me the permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to

[MR EBOIGBODI]

read section 5 of the Eastern Region Constitution which we passed in this House. It reads as follows:—

“(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of sections 9 and 34 of this Constitution, the House of Chiefs shall consist of

(a) all traditional Rulers, who shall be *ex-officio* members of the House;

(b) first-class Chiefs appointed to represent provinces in the Region;

(c) fifty-five Chiefs having such qualifications and selected in such manner as may be prescribed by the Legislature of the Region; and

(d) such special members (not exceeding five) having such qualifications as may be prescribed by the Legislature of the Region as may be selected by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier.”

Such provisions should have been provided in this Constitution. Only two of the people shall be made *ex-officio* members and in my opinion, the names of the Oba of Benin and Olu of Warri ought to be deleted from the Constitution—

An hon. Member: Why?

Several hon. Members: He has given his reasons.

Mr Eboigbodi: I have given my reasons, and so, since the provision has been made for taking in more Members the names of these two Obas should not have been made so conspicuous in the Constitution.

Question put and negatived.

The Prime Minister: I rise to move Amendment to Clause 5.

Clause 5, page C246, line 45, leave out “fifty-eight” and insert “fifty-one”. (Interruption).

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): May we know the reason why the number is reduced from 58 to 51?

The Prime Minister: I think that is why it would be much better to take all of them together so that the hon. Member could understand the implication of the Amendments. I think he is going to understand it when we come right up to the end of the Amendments.

(38)

The Chairman: Well, I have no objection to this. I have to put the Questions one by one instead.

The Prime Minister:

Clause 5, page C246, line 45, leave out “fifty-eight” and insert “fifty-one”.

Clause 5, page C246, line 46, leave out “and”.

Clause 5, page C247, line 2, at end insert “; and

(d) four members selected by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier, to represent the interests of groups of persons resident in the special areas within the meaning of subsection (4) of section 14 of this Constitution, being groups whose interests, in the opinion of the Governor acting as aforesaid, are not represented by Members of the House of Assembly for constituencies in those areas.”

Clause 5, page C247, line 9, leave out “Assembly” and insert “Chiefs”.

If I am to explain, those special areas, four in number, each of them was to return four Members to the House of Assembly. We find that in those special areas, there are other ethnic groups beyond those specifically mentioned in the Constitutional Instrument, and in order to give them adequate representation, we are suggesting that there should be four Members from those four areas appointed by the Governor acting on the advice of the Premier.

I think one Opposition Member made a very important point when I was away. He said that this Instrument is not final. All that we have to do in this House is to try to give to the people of the Mid-West something on which to start. It is after they have got their Constitution on which to work that they could change through the light of experience, if they want to. So this is all the reason why we are having this provision. I hope the Member for Egba South (Chief Akin-Olugbade) is now satisfied.

Chief Akin-Olugbade: I think I am satisfied with the explanation given by the hon. Prime Minister. But I have here a telegram from the Ijaw State Union complaining that certain areas of Itshekiri include the Ijaw District Council, like Ogbe Ijaw, Gbaramatu and Eghoema, and by the provision of the Section which has just been amended, these areas are precluded from representing their own groups in the House of Assembly. I have had some

private talk with the Minister of Finance who comes from the area, and I would like to have the assurance on record that these amendments proposed by the Prime Minister will cure the defects which have been discovered in respect of minorities included in areas dominated by other major ethnic groups. I hope we are not becoming more and more tribalistic in this country, because as far as I could see this Constitution is a departure from the Constitution for the West, the North, the East and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We would like to think that we are not taking a retrogressive step as far as the welfare of this country is concerned.

Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East): It is my view that this Amendment admits the fact that there are certain elements in the Mid-Western Region who have not been given effective representation within this special area. It seems that sending the people to the House of Chiefs will not be proper. The four special members ought to be allowed to go to the House of Assembly instead of House of Chiefs, because, as a matter of fact, those who are going to the House of Assembly are going there on representative basis. If these people are going to be selected just on the advice of the Premier, then those elements who in fact have been denied adequate representation have still not got it.

Mr J. E. Ukuoku (Urhobo West): I beg to move the following Amendment—

Clause 5, page C247, line 11, leave out “other than the Oba of Benin, the Olu of Warri; and insert “ten first-class Chiefs”. I beg to move.

Mr Speaker: I think this is relevant to the first Amendment which the Member for Urhobo West (Mr Ukuoku) moved once in this House and which was rejected. Therefore, I do not propose to put the Question.

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 5—(COMPOSITION OF HOUSE OF CHIEFS)—as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6—(COMPOSITION OF HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY).

(39)

The Prime Minister: I rise to move the following Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper—

Clause 6, page C247, line 21, leave out “sixty-eight” and insert “sixty-five”.

I beg to move.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): Just as in the other Clause, we still would like to know why the number should be reduced.

The Prime Minister: I am sorry, perhaps the Member for Degema (Mr Briggs) did not get a copy of the Delimitation Commission's Report. The Commission recommended sixty-five instead of sixty-eight Members of the House of Assembly. Formerly the parties in the Mid-West recommended sixty-two and sixty-eight respectively, but the Commission, when it was delimiting the Constituencies, could only delimit the areas to sixty-five Constituencies. So, instead of the House of Assembly being composed of sixty-eight Members it will now be composed of sixty-five. That is the reason. I am sorry that we got the report of the Delimitation Commission, rather a bit late, but I think all hon. Members have now got copies of it.

Mr A. Opia (Aboh): I would like to draw the attention of the House to the unfair treatment given to Aboh Division.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. We are concerned with changing sixty-eight to sixty-five.

Mr Opia: The point I am making is that to reduce the number sixty-eight to sixty-five will be an unfair treatment to Aboh and Asaba Divisions in particular.

In opposing the Amendment before us, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the irregularities which the figure before the House reveals. In the first place, in Benin Division we have thirteen seats against 292,000 registered voters; in Urhobo Division we have ten seats against the 262,000 voters; in Ishan Division we have 192,000 voters against eight seats, and then, if one goes to Asaba Division one finds 212,000 voters against eight seats.

Several hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr Opia: This is very unfair and I am calling on the Prime Minister to see that this is rectified. As far as we know him, he is a

[MR OPIA]

fair man, but I think in this particular case, Asaba and Aboh Divisions have been most unfairly treated.

I would like to support my argument by saying that we have the Afenmai Division with 138,000 voters, Isoko Division with 70,000 voters, and we have the Western Ijaw Division with 82,000 voters. These are supposed to be minority areas and yet they are given four seats each against only four seats for a Division like Aboh which has a population of 126,000.

**Several hon. Members :** That is very unfair.

**Mr Opia :** I feel that this is purposely done because Aboh has, for a long time, been N.C.N.C. dominated area. There is no secret behind it. If Isoko Division and Warri Division can have 40,000 each and then Aboh Division 126,000 and yet they are given the same number of seats, I think it is most unfair.

Sixty-eight was the total number of seats given by the Administrative Council in the Mid-West area. I feel it is a vote of no confidence in the Interim Government of the Mid-Western Region. It is most unfair for only three men who have no knowledge of the Mid-West area appointed for a short period to go there and cut down the number of seats which this House originally passed. I feel that this is a very serious point. If this is the way we have to run the Government of this country—

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** On a point of order, the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) is making a tribalistic speech. We want one Nigeria.

**Mr Opia :** I am appealing to the Prime Minister. A delegation has already seen the Prime Minister on this matter. From the reports before us in this House, we feel that real injustice has been done to Aboh Division. This is no question of one Nigeria. This is pure and simple unfair play by the Delimitation Committee. I feel that this is really a vote of no confidence in the Delimitation Committee.

Looking at the report, you can even find that Mr Nagoro did not even sign his report. This is not a genuine report. If a constituency with 50,000 registered voters will have to get

four seats and then a place like Asaba Division, most unfair. That is the whole idea. What Aboh Division will have to get four seats, other logical reason has this Commission in each, I think this is most unfair. giving biased treatment to these two Divisions?

I am appealing to the Prime Minister that he should withdraw this report and stick to the Prime Minister who is always considered the 68 seats which have been originally agreed all the world over to be considerate, to reconsider and then make up Aboh Division by two members his Amendment. This Amendment would not conform to the wishes of the people. The wish of the public is that everybody in the Mid-West should be treated fairly. Therefore, I appeal, on behalf of the whole people of the Mid-West that the Prime Minister should reconsider the position and withdraw his Amendment. The Prime Minister has the right and the chance to do so now and we of the N.C.N.C. will definitely support him if he withdraws this Amendment. All we are interested in is that everybody should be fairly treated. It is when we say everybody should not be fairly treated that we start playing politics.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** I am wholeheartedly supporting the hon. Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*), and in doing so I am not blaming the Prime Minister for presenting the Amendment which he is now trying to present. The Prime Minister is acting on the advice of the so-called experts who have compiled the fraudulent report. This is fraudulent in the sense that it took no consideration whatever of the fact that Nigerians are Nigerians and no matter where they are they are Nigerians and they should be treated equitably. There is no reason whatever to give certain people undue advantage over other just because they are called minority in minority or minority in a majority. If they are Nigerians they should equitably share their own fate and fortunes.

I want to point out the fact that we should not play politics with this Constitution. This is the Constitution of Mid-Western Nigeria. There should be no politics in it at all. It appears to me that the people who compile this report must have been politically biased against my party the N.C.N.C. If they are not politically biased, they would not have given the number of seats now given to the Division. In fact, Aboh, Division, as the Member for Aboh (*Mr Opia*) stated, should have a higher number of seats, at least six, which had been proposed before, and likewise Asaba Division. We should the Commission pick on the elements of that Region? This is a very important issue.

**Chief Ayo Rosiji :** The Member for Ab South (*Mr Ememe*) used to be Radio Moscow. Is he now Radio Ibo?

**Mr Ememe :** What I am trying to say is that this Commission is trying to bring tribalism into the Mid-West. If there were fair treatment for all the people concerned in the area, nobody would have raised any voice against one another. But just because two Divisions happened to be Ibo Divisions, therefore they should be badly treated. This

What we are saying is that we are appealing to the Prime Minister who is always considered all the world over to be considerate, to reconsider and then make up Aboh Division by two members his Amendment. This Amendment would not conform to the wishes of the people. The wish of the public is that everybody in the Mid-West should be treated fairly. Therefore, I appeal, on behalf of the whole people of the Mid-West that the Prime Minister should reconsider the position and withdraw his Amendment. The Prime Minister has the right and the chance to do so now and we of the N.C.N.C. will definitely support him if he withdraws this Amendment. All we are interested in is that everybody should be fairly treated. It is when we say everybody should not be fairly treated that we start playing politics.

I wish to reiterate that the Prime Minister has the opportunity to withdraw his Amendment so that he may not give us the impression that a certain group of people in the Mid-West are being victimised.

I beg to support.

**The Prime Minister :** All I want to say is to defend the Commission which has delimited the constituencies in the Mid-Western Region. The Federal Electoral Commission did this work and hon. Members are aware that the Commission takes instructions from nobody. If hon. Members have read their report they will see that it is a very fair report.

As I said before this should not be regarded as final. The people of the Mid-West have got a lot to do with this Constitution which is before the House. In fact, it is their own suggestions and ideas which are embodied in the Constitution. The mere fact that Aboh got four seats with 126,000 people is just something which the Commission has got reasons to explain.

**Mr Opia :** Explain it to us. (*Interruptions*).

**The Prime Minister :** I am sorry but I do not think this really calls for such heat at all because this is not the final Constitution. When the Mid-West Region is brought into being the Mid-Westerners can amend it as they like and they can delimit the constituencies in the way they like. It will be very difficult for us to refuse to accept the recommendations of the Commission now because, as I said, time is against us.

We have to have a new Government in the Mid-West Region by the 8th of February. If we do not accept the recommendations of the Commission it means we have to start all over again; either appoint another Commission or the same Commission to delimit the areas into 68 seats and that will be too late. Therefore, the only sensible thing to do, is to accept the recommendations of the Commission. If you do not accept the recommendations, what can we do, because the interim administration comes to an end by the 8th of February and between now—

**An hon. Member :** Make a statement.

**The Prime Minister :** There is no question of making a statement.

I am afraid I cannot be of much help to hon. Members and we shall stick to this number of 65. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order! I think that in cases where there is such controversy and some Members seem to be losing their parliamentary ethics, it is only right and proper that I should be guided by the votes.

**Several hon. Members :** Aye! Aye!

**Some hon. Members :** No, no, no.

**Mr Speaker :** I think the Ayes have it.

**Some hon. Members :** No, no, no no. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Clear the lobbies. Will the Tellers please come to the Table.

**Mr J. S. Tarka (Lengbar) :** On a point of order, I want to indicate that my own side of the House is going to abstain from voting.

**Mr Speaker :** You need not say so. (*Interruptions*).

*Tellers for the Ayes—Alhaji Sarkin Bai, Mr Ukueku.*

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yussuff Maitama Sule) :** We have got our Tellers, let the Tellers for the Noes come forward. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Will Mr Opia and Mr Mordi please clear out of the House if they are not going to refrain from such unruliness.

**Some hon. Members :** Shame, shame.

*Mr Opia and Mr Mordi left the Chamber.*

*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 6—(COMPOSITION OF HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY)—as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 7-47—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 48—(ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH COURT)

Mr D. N. Oronsanye (Benin East): Clause 48 is also of the same pattern as the Western Region Constitution. With your permission, I will read it:

"(1) There shall be a High Court for the Region.

(2) The judges of the High Court of the Region shall be—

(a) the Chief Justice of the Region; and

(b) such number of other judges (not being less than six) as may be prescribed by the Legislature of the Region."

I think that if the Western Region has exactly not less than six, and the Mid-West being a smaller region, the number of judges ought to be less than six. If it is found necessary to increase the number of judges to any number later, it is all right; but as something which forms part of the Constitution, to start with such extravagance of a minimum of six judges, is unjustifiable.

I am appealing to the Prime Minister to consider this point. Sometime ago, when the Mid-West Region was being thought of, several committees were appointed to look into several matters. They issued comprehensive reports. These reports have been completely ignored. A minimum of six judges for the Mid-West Region is an extravagance; it is good to start cutting it right from the very start and I beg to recommend.

Clause 48—(ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH COURT)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 49-76—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

First Schedule, Paragraph 1—(THE EDO SPEAKING YORUBA ETHNIC GROUP)

The Prime Minister: I rise to make the following Amendment—

First Schedule, Paragraph 1, page C276, line 23, leave out "Edo speaking Yoruba" and insert "Yoruba speaking Edo."

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): The correct thing is what is there in the First Schedule. The Edo speaking Yoruba means the Yoruba

people who speak Edo, which is quite different thing, from Yoruba speaking Edo which means the Edos who speak Yoruba.

These people are Yorubas and not Edos. It is the River Osse that divides these people into two sides. On one side, you have the Edo speaking Yorubas, and on the other side you have Akoko, where you have Ikare as the headquarters in that area.

If you look at this Delimitation Report under Akoko-Edo on page 12, you will see that the names of towns under Akoko-Edo (the Akoko-Edo (2), and so on, are Yoruba names all these areas are Yorubas names. One of the Commissioners for the Mid-West administration is Oye. This name—Oye—is not Benin name, but a Yoruba name. The names—Adebayo, Adeyemi, Ayeni, Tokunboh—borne by people in these areas are Yoruba names. The correct thing is what is there and should be retained—Edo speaking Yoruba and not Yoruba speaking Edo.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo Central): I want to speak on paragraph 3 of the First Schedule—Warri Area—that is to say, the area of the electoral district established by the pro-clamation—

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member can only speak on the Amendment now.

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.

First Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Second Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended: 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed: 3 p.m.

#### LAGOS TOWN PLANNING (COMPENSATION) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Musa Yar'Adua): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to provide for the withholding of compensation payable under

the Lagos Town Planning Act in respect of certain estates and interests in land; and for purposes connected with the matter aforesaid be now read a Second time.

When the Lagos Town Planning Act was passed it was reasonable to assume that the intention was to avoid profiteering in land values and to freeze the power to create new interest on publication of an approved Town Planning Scheme where land is to be acquired under the Lagos Executive Development Board. Unfortunately, it has been found that due to the absence of a specific statutory provision to this effect, there is a loophole in the law which speculators have been quick to exploit by granting fresh leases, sub-leases and assignments at huge profit rents or premiums which eventually inflate the compensation payable by Government in respect of the various interests in a scheme area.

This Bill, therefore, provides a means to prevent profiteering in land values and to freeze the power to create new interest on publication of a scheme undertaken by the Lagos Executive Development Board under the Lagos Town Planning Act.

The Bill is non-controversial and I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule): I beg to second.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central): In supporting the Bill I just wish to underline one particular fact namely, that under the operation of the scheme the bulk of the compensation went into the hands of aliens. In actual fact, what the real land owners got was nothing compared with what went into the hands of the alien speculators who, on the publication of the scheme, got our men to enter into fresh leases, and when the aliens themselves put forward application for compensation they got a greater part of the compensation.

The object of this Bill is therefore very desirable. Having said that I would like to say a few words on the operation of the scheme itself, and the undertaking which the Minister gave to the native owners of the land. One of the undertakings given by the Minister to the owners was that they would be re-settled, as much as possible, on their own land, or they would be given alternative sites. The Government went further to say that the alternative

sites would either be in Apapa or Surulere or in the reclaimed area in South-West Ikoyi.

You will be amazed, Mr Speaker, to know that the Minister, having entered into this undertaking, has not honoured it. At one time he cut a large area and announced that that was the area reserved for those who were displaced (the area is not very far from Mr Speaker's house); but just suddenly we heard that this land had been taken away from the people to whom they were reserved. That has caused a lot of indignation and I would like the Minister to assure our men that they are not being victimised, because there are two aspects to it: they lost the compensation money to the alien speculators, and now land offered to them in exchange for the one the Government acquired in South-West Ikoyi has been refused them.

I am imploring the Minister to honour his pledge—give them the alternative site along Keffi Street which was originally earmarked for them. That was the undertaking given to them and a man's word should be his bond. The Minister should give the land to the owners.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West Central):

This is a welcome Bill—welcome in the sense that the Federal Government always protects the interests of the public, particularly those for whom it is directly responsible.

Lagos, as we all know, is the capital of Nigeria, and the Federal Government is directly responsible for it. However, there is one thing which I would like to mention about Lagos territory; it is about the planning of the City of Lagos. As we are all aware land in this area is scarce indeed, and the way the land at Victoria Island is being given out to the public leaves much to be desired. Shortage of land in Lagos is so acute that the only portion which we have should be absolutely scrutinized before it is given out. Developments are bound to come up in Lagos and one finds that an area given to a firm or a corporation is out of proportion to the actual demands made by a firm or company.

I beg to support.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East): I rise to support the subject before the House. I sympathise with the Member for Lagos Central (Mr L. J. Dosunmu) for whenever anything concerning Lagos comes up for debate he naturally will have to speak, sometimes eve

[ALHAJI BELLO DANDAGO]

off the point. He is irrelevant this afternoon because he did not speak on the Bill, but just spoke his personal wish.

All that the Bill is seeking to do is to stop profiteering, not a question of allocating land to Mr A or Mr B, or a question of somebody being deprived of land. That is not the purpose of the Bill at all. The purpose is short and simple and all sides of the House understand it to be so, except the Member for Lagos Central. He has refused to understand the real purport of this Bill, but prefers to see it from a different angle. So, for the first time, I am charging him with irrelevance.

I beg to support.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural)** : This is a welcome Bill. It is so in the sense that it seeks to regulate the amount of compensation payable from public funds in consequence of the compulsory acquisition of land in Lagos. Now the question that arises is : Who gets the money, for the money is paid out of public funds ? If the money is paid to the native people of Lagos then one has got to look very carefully into this Bill and the purpose of the Bill itself ; because, in my own opinion, what this Bill is seeking to do is to get the land of the Lagos people and then refuse to pay them adequate compensation. If it is so then one must view this Bill with very great suspicion, and one may even regard it as being iniquitous in its design, because you cannot get the land and then deprive the people of adequate compensation for the land.

If the money goes to the aliens as has been pointed out by the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr L. J. Dosunmu*) then it is the duty of the Government and the Minister responsible for Lagos Affairs to see that what ought to go to Lagos people does not go into the hands of the aliens because in such a case as before they will be losing on two grounds : they will be losing part of their land and they will be losing part of the money which should benefit them.

Even then, in assessing what ought to be given to the landlords, I think the Minister ought to be guided by the location of the land itself because location of land in central places should command higher values than land in remote places. Another thing is that the utility of the land either now or in the near future should be considered in assessing compensation.

Whether the land is situated in industrial area or not ; and if it is situated in an industrial area then the compensation should be high. The Minister should not just say that this piece of land and so such and such should be the compensation to be paid for it.

I would also like the Minister in charge of Lagos Affairs to look very carefully into complaints of the Lagos land owners. Some weeks ago there were many complaints there were press releases—and appeals by people who have been dislodged from their land and who have been promised alternative sites but these promises have not been honoured. This is not only the trouble of the Lagos people but also the problem of the Federal Government.

Some people may get up and say : "Lagos does not belong to a particular person". Where some of us can claim other places as home towns others cannot. There are people who were born and bred in Lagos who have no other places to claim like the Chief from Benin. The interest of these people who have no other places to run to must be protected adequately.

It is in this connection that, while I support this Bill, I want to call on the Minister of Lagos Affairs to see that adequate compensation is paid to the displaced people.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South)** : I would like to say that it is the people who come down for only some time before returning to their bush who shout and cry about inadequate compensation and these people are in the minority.

**Rev. Akinyemi** : On a point of order, Sir, I think some people in this honourable House should stop insulting others by saying that some people only come to Lagos during the short period in which the House sits and then go back to their bush. I do not know whether these people know the meaning of bush ; but whether they know it or not they should stop insulting the intelligence of the Members of this House.

**Mr Odulana** : What I am stressing is that only the people who are permanently resident in Lagos know the value and worth of this Bill. As the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr L. J. Dosunmu*) has put it, it shows that he does not

know the worth and value of this Bill ; otherwise he would not have gone against it vehemently in the way he did ; and the Minister of Justice who is law himself does not oppose the Bill because he knows the Bill is good for the people of Lagos.

If anybody goes to the Magistrates' Courts a person will find that out of every ten cases eight are cases dealing with land or houses or landed property, and this is what his Bill seeks to regulate—compensation to displaced people. This Bill wants to see that what is due to A is given to A and what is due to B is given to B. If one takes a walk along Awolowo Road one finds that out of every one hundred houses ninety-five belong to aliens ; how they got them nobody knows. It is this type of thing that this Bill is going to regulate for us. I think it is for us to thank the Minister of Lagos Affairs for bringing this sort of Bill to this House at this time.

This Bill is a welcome Bill and I want the Minister of Lagos Affairs to see to it that none of our lands is given to these aliens as it has been going on in the past. I welcome this Bill and thank the Minister for it.

*Sitting suspended : 3.25 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 4.00 p.m.*

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh)** : I rise to support the Bill. I am doing so I wish to congratulate my colleague popularly known as the Landlord of Lagos, the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs, for this progressive measure that he has brought forward in order to save the constituents of the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*). May I know if the Member for Lagos Central is an Alhaji now or a Mallam ?

**An hon. Member** : He is going this year !

**The Minister of Finance** : I hear that the Member for Lagos Central can never become an Alhaji because he is always staying at Isale Eko.

I honestly feel that the point made by the Member for Lagos Central as had been stated already by the Members who have spoken on this Bill is not relevant to the debate. He is quite aware that the Minister is doing everything possible to protect land-owners in Lagos and also to develop the land of Lagos in order

that the City might stand squarely to the dignity required of the Capital of the Republic. That being so, I would have expected him to express appreciation for what has been done. However, I want to assure him that the owners of land in Lagos are those who hold fast to their land and do not allow anybody to take it from them.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos Central)** : On a point of order, the Minister promised to give the portion of land along Keffi Street to those who are displaced, and, I think, the Minister of Defence will bear me out in this respect that as the author of the scheme itself, he did promise that those who would be displaced in Lagos Central would be offered land in the South West/Obalende Scheme.

In keeping with that promise at a certain stage the Government passed over a large area along Keffi Street primarily to these people, but a year after or so the whole land was taken away from them and re-parcelled among those who were not connected with the people.

As I said, the people started to agitate. They wrote petitions to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Lagos Affairs that the promise given to them at the initial stage should be honoured. Land along the South-West Scheme promised to those who were displaced should be reserved for them and should not be given to other people. That is the point made !

**Mr Speaker** : Well, I do not think the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) has raised a point of order at all. The Standing Orders have clearly indicated when and where a point of order can be raised, and Members should not take the opportunity of raising a point of order to make long speeches such as the Member for Lagos Central has done. For this reason I am inclined to allow the Minister of Finance to continue his speech.

**The Minister of Finance** : I am grateful to the Member for Lagos Central for the point of order made excepting that he did not go far enough !

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South)** : Mr Speaker has himself taken the same opportunity to make a long speech !

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! I have not made a speech. I have only ruled on a point raised by the Member for Lagos Central.

**The Minister of Finance :** I support the Bill, and I move that the Debate be now adjourned.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) : I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the Debate be now adjourned.

*Debate to be resumed—Tomorrow.*

#### 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 five minutes past four o'clock.*

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 9th January, 1964

The House met at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

#### OATHS

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

Chief M. W. Ubani

M. H. Gwandu

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS CABINET OFFICE

##### Recruitment of Women Police Officers

**O.1147 Mr E. D. Akinbowale** asked the Prime Minister, how many women have been recruited into The Nigeria Police Force since its inception, and what are their present ranks.

**Minister of State** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : 351 women have so far been recruited into the Nigeria Police Force. Their present ranks are as follows :—

Deputy Superintendent of Police . . .	1
Assistant Superintendent of Police . . .	3
Inspectors . . . . .	22
Sergeants . . . . .	14
Corporals . . . . .	9
Constables . . . . .	302

Total . . . . . 351

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East) : Of this number, how many are of the Northern origin ?

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West) : Will the hon. Minister please tell us how many of this number are married ?

**Hon. Olarewaju :** That is a new question.

##### Death of Mr Okakpu

**O.1149. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Prime Minister, if he will make a statement on the circumstances leading to the death of Chief Inspector of Police, Mr Z. P. Okakpu, who, while investigating the case of David Johnson Briggs, was beaten and left unconscious at the roadside in the Ogui Urban Area and later died in hospital early in September this year.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** The death of the late Chief Inspector Okakpu had no connection with the death of Mr David Johnson Briggs.

The late Chief Inspector and a Police Corporal went to the Olympic Hotel, Enugu, about 8 p.m. on 25th August, 1963 and when they left at 11.30 p.m. it was noticed that the deceased was drunk. While they were both making their way to a taxi the late Chief Inspector fell into a deep gutter and the Corporal, who was also drunk, went away in a taxi, making no effort to help the deceased.

Later he reported the incident to the Central Police Station, Enugu. He has since been reduced in rank to a constable for not offering immediate assistance to his colleague. The Chief Inspector died later and medical report stated that all the evidence points to an accidental injury.

The late Chief Inspector had no connection whatsoever with the investigation of the case of theft of petrol in which Mr David Johnson Briggs and an Executive Officer attached to the Ministry of Finance were involved. It was a coincidence that both died almost at the same time and in suspicious circumstances.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : There were stab wounds all over the body of the said Inspector Okakpu.

##### Alleged Murder of Officials in Enugu

**O.1150. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Prime Minister, what progress has been made in the investigation of the murder of Mr David Johnson Briggs, Inspector Z. P. Okakpu, and an Executive Officer in Enugu who were to give vital evidence in a petrol deal case then pending in the Enugu Magistrate's Court.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** Police investigations into the circumstances leading to the death of Mr David Johnson Briggs established that he committed suicide by hanging. A piece of cotton cloth was tied to his neck and hung from a branch within the reach of such a person.

Medical report confirmed that the knot must have been applied during life and certified the cause of death as asphyxia from hanging. The examination also revealed that there was no external bruising and that no part of the body was removed.

[HON. OLAREWAJU]

The deceased was in charge of PWD Petrol Filling Station, Enugu and it was part of his responsibilities to supply petrol to Government vehicles on requisition order and to Government officials on cash payment. Between April and May it was discovered he had supplied a total number of 15,676 gallons of petrol to a clerk attached to the Ministry of Finance on forged requisition orders.

After the arrest of the clerk it became obvious that the deceased was also implicated and a statement under caution was taken from him. A few days later he told his wife he was going to Uwani and that was the last heard of him. It is believed that he committed suicide to avoid standing trial.

Regarding the death of Chief Inspector Okakpu, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his Question No. O.1149.

The Police are not aware of the murder of an Executive Officer in Enugu as alleged by the hon. Member but will investigate if he would supply details.

**Mr Briggs :** Is it not true that certain men in very high places in Enugu are involved in this murder and theft of petrol?

#### Republic Day Celebrations

**O.1184. Mr S. Nnaji** asked the Prime Minister how much was spent on celebrations marking the country's change to a Republic on October 1.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Alhaji Sani Gezawa) :** The expenditure was £24,240-7s-11d.

#### Ajegunle Police Force

**O.1215 : Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Prime Minister, if he will increase the strength of the Police Force in Ajegunle in view of the increasing crime wave in the area at present.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** The matter is under consideration.

#### External Publicity

**O.1216 Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Prime Minister, what plans he has to make the Ministries of External Affairs and Information co-operate in order to improve the standard of our external publicity.

**Alhaji Gezawa :** The Prime Minister has already looked into the matter and hopes that the machinery devised to co-ordinate the activities of the two Ministries in all aspects of external publicity will now work satisfactorily.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South) :** Is the Prime Minister aware that this type of non-co-operation between the two Ministers is creating a great deal of inefficiency in our Public Service?

#### Ikot-Okoro Police Station

**O.1217 Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Prime Minister, whether in view of the fact that Ikot-Okoro Police Station has no means of transport he will consider providing more vehicles to the unit to enable the Police to cope with the wave of crime in the area.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** The question of providing Ikot-Okoro Police Station with more vehicles will be considered along with the requirements of other Police Units when funds are available.

#### Nigerians in the Police Force

**O.1219 Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Prime Minister, if he will state the number of Nigerians in the Nigeria Police Force giving their ranks and Region of origin.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** There are 15,634. Their ranks are as follows:—

Deputy Inspector-General ..	1
Commissioner ..	2
Deputy Commissioner ..	4
Assistant Commissioner ..	6
Chief Superintendent ..	29
Superintendent ..	30
Deputy Superintendent ..	51
Assistant Superintendent ..	248
Chief Inspector ..	15
Inspector ..	223
Sub-Inspector ..	472
Rank and File ..	14,553
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>15,634</b>

#### Annang Provincial Headquarters

**O.1220. Chief R. A. Orok** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider the desirability of attaching female Police Officers to the Annang Provincial Headquarters.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** The question of posting women Police officers to the Annang Provincial Headquarters will be considered when the strength of women Police permits.

#### Alleged Murder of Mr D. J. Briggs

**O.1275. Mr W. O. Briggs** asked the Prime Minister, if he will make a statement of his findings on the murder of David Johnson Briggs, Storekeeper of the Ministry of Works, Enugu, whose decomposed body was found somewhere at the Ogui Urban Area on the 29th August, 1963, where was he found, what was the state of the decomposed body at time of discovery; and whether it was found that certain vital parts of his body had been removed.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** The body of David Johnson Briggs was found in a very advanced stage of putrefaction in a cassava farm at the New Independence Layout, Enugu, on the 29th of August, 1963.

Regarding the other points raised in the Question, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his Question No. O.1150.

**Mr Briggs :** Would the Minister tell us whether there was a public autopsy on the body of David Johnson Briggs?

#### Cost of 1963 Census

**O.1287. Mr N. Nwangbo** asked the Prime Minister, how much was spent on the 1963 Census.

**Alhaji Gezawa :** A sum of £2.5 million was provided for the 1963 Census. The actual expenditure incurred will not be known until all the statements of account are received.

#### Publication of 1963 Census Figures

**O.1288. Mr N. Nwangbo** asked the Prime Minister, when the figures for the 1963 Census will be published, and whether he is making any arrangements for re-distribution of Federal Parliamentary seats on the basis of the new figures.

**Alhaji Gezawa :** The figures for the 1963 Census will be released as soon as the collation of data is completed.

It is proposed to appoint a Delimitation Commission as soon as the result of the Census is known and the compilation of the voters' list on the basis of this result is completed.

#### 1963 Population Census

**O.1289. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, if he is aware that a great many Nigerians were not counted during the November 1963 Census owing to the fact that the number of days allotted was too small, and if he will make provisions for the District Officers of the areas affected to count those citizens who have been left out.

**Alhaji Gezawa :** No, Sir. The second part of the question does not arise.

#### Road Accidents

**O.1290. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Prime Minister, what is the total number of road accidents from October to December 1963, and what steps are being taken by the Police to check and reduce these accidents.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** I regret that the answer to this Question cannot be supplied at so short a notice as we do not have a centralised monthly returns from the Regions.

#### Compensation in respect of Mr Itah

**O.1291. Mr O. J. Eminue** asked the Prime Minister, whether any compensation has been paid to the family of the late Mr O. Itah, the Police Officer who died while serving in the Congo.

**Hon. Olarewaju :** Death gratuity and service allowances (United Nations) have been paid into the estate of the deceased officer.

Action is being taken to pay the dependants' allowance and the gratuity due under sections 18 (3) (a) (d) and 15 (6) respectively, of the Police Act.

#### Mid-Western Region's Expenditure

**O.1293. Mr S. O. Ogunjipe** asked the Prime Minister, how much has been spent up-to-date in connection with the creation of the Mid-Western Region, and how much more he intends to spend before the election into the Region's House of Assembly takes place.

**Alhaji Gezawa :** A sum of £80,000 was provided for the Mid-West Referendum and £100,000 for the delimitation of constituencies and election expenses.

[ALHAJI GEZAWA]

The actual expenditure incurred will not be known until all the statements of account for the current financial year are received.

**Mr Ememe :** Will the Prime Minister tell us whether this amount includes the three million pounds supposed to be spent on the Mid-West during this period?

**Mr Speaker :** That question requires notice.

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### Statistics on Murder

**O.1294. Mr S. O. Ogunipe** asked the Prime Minister how many cases of murder occurred in this country from January 1961 to November 1963, and where these cases occurred.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Mr M. O. Okilo) : Statistics available in the Central C.I.D. show that 1,333 cases of murder were reported to the Police from the 1st of January, 1961 to the 30th of November, 1963.

The cases were as follows :—

East	..	..	..	657
West	..	..	..	388
North	..	..	..	261
Lagos	..	..	..	27

The statistics have not yet been broken down between the Western and Mid-Western Regions nor do they show the towns where the murders were committed.

##### Policy on Racial Discrimination

**O.1148. Mr S. O. Kolade** asked the Minister of External Affairs if he will, make a statement clarifying Nigeria's policy on apartheid in South Africa and the colonial policy of Portugal.

**Mr M. O. Okilo :** The Federal Government condemns the racial policies of the Government of South Africa and the colonial policy of Portugal. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Will Members please refrain from persistent interruptions.

**Mr Okilo :** They are both apartheid and we cannot agree that any part of Africa belongs to a European nation like Portugal. We will therefore continue to devote our efforts to securing diplomatic rights for Africans in South Africa and others in Angola and other Portuguese territories in Africa.

#### Aid to Foreign Countries

**O.1152. Mr A. U. D. Mbah** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state the amount of aid both financial, technical or otherwise that Nigeria has given to other African countries from 1st October, 1960 to 1st October, 1963.

**Mr Okilo :** It is not the policy of the Government to publicise details of aid—financial, technical or otherwise—given to other African countries. I shall be prepared to communicate the information directly to my hon. Friend should he so wish.

##### Opening of an Embassy in Israel

**O.1153. Mallam J. M. Damla** asked the Minister of External Affairs, how soon we are going to have an Embassy in Israel, and why there is none up to this time.

**Mr Okilo :** The establishment of Nigerian Missions in Israel and in other countries in which Nigeria needs to be represented is receiving due consideration. As the Member for Pankshin West (*Mallam J. M. Damla*) himself is aware, there are many factors to be taken into consideration, such as the availability of funds and trained personnel who will man such an embassy.

The fact that the Nigerian Government has established diplomatic relations with Israel is of course an indication of the intention of the Government to open an embassy in the country in due course and at an appropriate time.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : Will the Minister be kind enough to tell this House on what principle the opening of embassies by Nigeria in other countries is based?

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : The time is so short for me to analyse the principles, nevertheless, I can assure the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr P. U. Okeke*) that I am thinking very seriously of the necessity for opening an Embassy in Israel.

##### Yugoslavia

**O.1221. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of External Affairs if he will consider setting up a Nigerian Embassy in Yugoslavia as a matter of urgency.

As I have said in the past, we are not against the people of South Africa or Portugal but we are against the racial and colonial policies of their Governments. In this connection, the Federal Government has supported all reasonable and practical moves within and outside the Organisation of African Unity to give all the races in South Africa their normal rights and also to liberate those Africans still under colonial domination.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai) : How does the Minister of External Affairs reconcile these statements?—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** The Minister is capable of replying to this question.

**The Minister of External Affairs** (Hon. Jaja Wachuku) : There is nothing in the answer that is inconsistent with the statement that the Minister made, and if the Member for Afenmai (*Mr M. C. K. Obi*) had read the speech of the Minister which was circulated to all the Members, he would by now be aware of that. (*Applause*).

**Mr Speaker :** I have noticed that there is a loud applause in the gallery. This is not allowed. If the gallery continues to make this applause to the disturbance of the House, then I might use the Standing Orders of the House to clear them.

##### Establishment of Embassies in Communist Countries

**O.1151. Mr J. Chukwu** asked the Minister of External Affairs if he will consider the desirability of establishing Embassies in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia to protect the interests of our Nationals living there and project the image of Nigeria to these countries.

**Mr Okilo :** It is the intention of the Government to establish as many embassies as possible in all independent countries but, as hon. Members will know, it is not yet possible for my Ministry to do this because of financial and staff considerations.

At present, Nigeria has an embassy which is headed by an Ambassador in Moscow. Other diplomatic missions should be opened in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and other countries as soon as possible.

**Mr Okilo :** The Government is guided in its decision to open diplomatic missions by a number of considerations which includes the availability of funds and trained staff. Like any other country which maintains diplomatic relations with Nigeria, the decision to open an Embassy is a reciprocal measure which will be considered in the light of the above factors and at the most appropriate time.

##### Nigerian Embassy in Rome

**O.1222. Mr D. Senu-Oke** asked the Minister of External Affairs how much it cost the Federal Government to purchase the building of the Nigerian Embassy in Rome, and when the building was bought.

**Mr Okilo :** The property owned by the Nigerian Embassy in Rome was bought on the 25th October, 1961 for £120,000.

##### Communist China and Eastern Germany

**O.1223. Mr O. C. Ememe** asked the Minister of External Affairs why Nigeria has no diplomatic relations with Communist China and Eastern Germany.

**Mr Okilo :** As the Member for Aba South (*Mr O. C. Ememe*) is aware, the Government is guided in its decision on the establishment of diplomatic missions by a number of considerations some of which include the availability of funds and trained personnel. We are also guided by our policy of non-alignment and would naturally wish to help in reconciling differences instead of widening them. Accordingly, our Government is pursuing such policy with regard to China and Eastern Germany which will bring about a solution.

#### MOTIONS

##### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I beg to move—

That, at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend sitting until 9 p.m.



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

I think this is a clear Motion which does not require any further explanation from me. But I would like to seize this opportunity to appeal to hon. Members who are most vociferous in asking for the extension of sitting days to, please, be businesslike, because it is no use if hon. Members come here only to criticise the government for not extending the sitting of the House for so many days. Yesterday afternoon, for instance, we were unable to get up to 208 Members in a House of 312 Members, and the very Members who criticised the government in the morning were no where to be found in the afternoon.

We want Members to be businesslike.

**An hon. Member :** We are discouraged.

**The Minister of Finance :** Any hon. Member who is discouraged, should resign. If a Member says he is discouraged and will therefore not come here in the afternoon, certainly such a Member is not doing a good turn to his constituency.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, some Members on that side of the House walked out yesterday and later came back. But when they are walking out, the Minister of Finance did not ask them to return. The Member who said that we are not encouraged is telling the truth. We want encouragement from you.

**Mr Speaker :** It is not a point of order.

**Mr E. D. Akinbowale (Ijebu North) :** On a point of order, many Ministers were absent from the House yesterday afternoon.

**Mr Speaker :** This is also not a point of order.

**The Minister of Finance :** This is all I want to say. I now want to draw the attention of hon. Members present this morning to the *Orders of the Day and Notices of Motions*. The first Bill on the *Order Paper* which is the Lagos Town Planning (Compensation) Bill, requires two-thirds majority and so also is the Constitution (Interpretation) Bill—No. 7 on the *Order Paper*.

I am appealing to hon. Members to, please, stay around if they have letters and other things to attend to ; I would also like to appeal very strongly that after voting for the Lagos Town

Planning (Compensation) Bill, they should, please, not go away, but remain for the other Bill—Constitution (Interpretation) Bill, so that we can finish them this morning. This would enable people like the hon. Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) who have other engagements to be free to go and to do so.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) :** I beg to second.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema) :** The fact that the House was not well attended yesterday afternoon is one more important point why we should have more days to sit, instead of having to rush the business.

We must take into consideration the fact that at certain hours of the day, Members of Parliament either get tired to come to the House or feel that they have one or two engagements to attend to. In which case, I think that there is a clear argument for extension of the Session for more days when debates in this House would be conducted properly. We cannot just come here and rush over things. This Session is going to last for only three days. There ought to have been a legitimate sitting of this House in November or December ; it was postponed till this time, and yet for only three days. We have come all the way from as many as 500 or 600 miles only to sit for three days and collect our allowances and go away. It is the tax payers' money, and we cannot run this Parliament as a "shoe makers' shop the day before Christmas." (*Applause*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! I have already informed the applauders in the Gallery that it is out of order to do so. If there is any further applause from the Gallery, I will not hesitate to clear it out.

**Mr Briggs :** All I am doing is to appeal very earnestly to the Leader of the House to consider the feelings of Members, and the pockets of the tax payers that pay him and pay all of us. We have come to perform the duties assigned to us by the tax payers who are also the voters. We cannot just steamroll things or hurry things up here.

To-day, we are having the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, a very important Bill like that. It will be read the First time, a Second

time, the Third time and everything will be finished with. The same thing happened yesterday when a very important Bill was finished up just like that and now the Minister of Finance complains of people who did not come yesterday afternoon. Members of Parliament are frustrated and that is why they did not come yesterday afternoon.

The Minister knows that night sittings are never popular with Members. I am sure Members will not come and it is because he knows that they will not come that he is putting up some unpopular Bills. That is why he is advocating for this night sitting.

I beg to oppose.

**Mr Speaker :** Mr Ekanem.

**Dr P. U. Okeke (Onitsha North Central) :** On a point of order, the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) must remember that he is no more on the Opposition bench.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** It is wrong to say that night sittings are not popular with Members of this honourable House. The Leader of the House made a statement yesterday—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Really we must get down to serious business. There has been quite a lot of heckling which is very unnecessary and has wasted a lot of the time of the House. I do not think I should allow that again.

**Mr Ekanem :** As I said earlier on, night sitting should continue not only to-day but even tomorrow. We are paid to come here, we are paid to work even up to the very early hours of the morning.

Therefore, to a good Parliamentarian and to a man who has the interest of the country at heart, night and day are the same. I only hope that those who are against night sitting will change their minds and turn up to-night in good number.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja) :** I would like to say that, in spite of the unpopularity of what the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) has said, it must be emphasised in this Parliament that, when Bills are brought before the House, the general trend is that they are often

rushed through.—I say, with the utmost respect to the Government that we have not been given adequate opportunity to look into Bills brought before this House and we are not happy about it.

There are many learned Members here, particularly on my side of the House—the side from which we get most of the professors and doctors—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. The House must really get some order in order to do some business. I wonder how far we are going at this rate. It is not good making Standing Orders and disrespecting them.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta) :** I challenge anyone of these professors to a public debate on any matter at any time.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That at this day's sitting, Government Business shall be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), provided that at 6 p.m. Mr Speaker shall suspend sitting until 9 p.m.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

LAGOS TOWN PLANNING (COMPENSATION) BILL :  
ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(8TH JANUARY)

*Motion made, and Question again proposed,  
That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

*Question put, and pursuant to Section 42 of  
the Constitution, the House divided.*

Ayes : 238

Noes : Nil.

## AYES

## Name of Member

Abasi, S. A.  
Abdul, M. Salihu O.  
Abdullahi, Alhaji Rilwanu  
Abubakar, Alhaji Abdulkadir  
Abubakar, M. Garba Jabo  
Abubakar, Alhaji (Magajin Gari)  
Abubakar, M. Tanko  
Adamu, Alhaji (Sarkin Tafarki)  
Adeyemo, B. A.  
Afolabi, R. A.  
Aghahowa, D. E. Y.

## Name of Member

Ahamefula, D. O.  
Allanana, M. Yakubu  
Ajasin, M. A.  
Akerele, Chief A.  
Akin-Olugbade, Chief O. B.  
Akinyemi, J. A.  
Akor, J. A.  
Akpan, P. O.  
Akwiwu, E. C.  
Alangade, M. A. Muhammadu  
Anzah, M. Auta  
Araka, E. O.  
Atiku, Alhaji  
Atiku, M. Umaru Madagali  
Attahir, M.  
Ayeni, U. O.

Baba, Alhaji Ahmadu A.  
Babandi, Alhaji Ahmadu  
Babatunde, S. A.  
Balla, M. Albatan Yerima  
Barko, M. Maaji Kachalla  
Bauchi, M. Abdu  
Bayero, Alhaji Abubakar  
Bayero, Alhaji Kabiru  
Bayero, M. Muhammadu  
Bichi, Alhaji Bello Farar Hula  
Bici, M. Ismaila Abdullahi  
Billiyong, M. D. Bulus  
Biu, M. Sule Abba  
Briggs, W. O.  
Brown, I. A.  
Bungudu, M. Atto

Chiedozie, C.  
Chikelu, I. O.  
Chuku, H. O.  
Chukwu, D. N.  
Chukwu, J.

Dada, G. K.  
Damla, J. M.  
Dənbappa, Alhaji Baba  
Daura, Alhaji L.  
Daura, M. Saidu  
De-Omomadia, J. K.  
Dosunmu, L. J.  
Dukku, M. Abdulkadir  
Dusinma, M. Bala Muhammadu  
Dutse, M. Aminu Suleiman

Eboigbodi, J. B.  
Ede, J. O.  
Effiong-Spatts, A. E.  
Ejukwa, P. I.  
Ekanem, P. E.  
Eko, U. U.  
Eleke, P. O.  
Elenwa, N. E.  
Emenogha, V. A.  
Eminue, O. J.  
Enefolu, D. O.  
Eneh, G. O. D.  
Enwo, N.  
Etukudo, T. I.  
Ezera, Dr K.

## Name of Member

Fajimi, S. O.  
Gada, M. Garba M.  
Gajiran, M. Muktar  
Galkogo, M. Umaru  
Garba, M. Turakin Paiko  
Gauyarma, Alhaji Muhammadu  
Gaza, C. Tangu  
Gella, M. Umaru  
Gbolagunte, D. M.  
Gumel, Alhaji Umaru  
Gusau, M. Ibrahim  
Gwandu, M. Haliru (Wakilin Gona)  
Gwarzo, M. Muhammadu  
Gwarzo, Alhaji Usman  
Gwate, Alhaji Muhammadu

Haruna, Alhaji Isa  
Haruna, Alhaji Wakilin, Daji  
Hindi, Zanna A. Musa

Ibrahim, Abubakar A.  
Ibrahim, Baba Shehu  
Igwe, J. O.  
Ihe, F. U.  
Ikeh, B. O.  
Iketuonye, V.  
Iko, M. Isa  
Ilesha, M. Yesu  
Isa, M. Ladan  
Isa, Alhaji Zaraki

Jiah, M. Abel  
Janjuna, M. Muhammadu

Kaita, Alhaji Damale  
Kangiwa, M. Garba  
Kano, Alhaji Aminu  
Kaura, M. Ali Nakura  
Karani, M. Uwaisul  
Kirim, M. Abdu  
Kolade, S. O.  
Kumo, M. Muhammadu  
Kura, Alhaji Muhammadu

Lajide, V. L.  
Lar, S. D.  
Layya, M. Shekarau Ka'a

Mabuta, M. Abdullahi (Galadima Katsina)  
Maidugu, M. Abdulkadir (Dan Iyan Hadejia)  
Maigari, M. Haikali  
Maikaita, M. Dambo Ibrahim  
Maikayari, M. Galadima  
Maitama, M. Ibrahim Na  
Maltumbi, Alhaji Umaru  
Mani, M. Iro  
Mariere, Chief S. J.  
Mashi, M. Iro (Iyan Katsina)  
Mohamed, M. Yusha'u A.  
Mohamed-Munir, Alhaji (Mutawallin Kano)  
Monguno, Shettima Ali  
Mordi, E. A.  
Muhammadu, Alhaji Aliyu  
Muhtari, Alhaji Mohammed (Sarkin Bai)  
Muku, M. Ibrahim  
Muojeke, R. N.  
Muri, Alhaji Adamu

## Name of Member

Nadabo, M. Ibrahim  
Nas, M. Wada  
Ningi, M. Muhammed  
Nnaji, S.  
Nwalieji, V. A.  
Nwangbo, N.  
Nweke, O. O.  
Nwofokoda, J. N.

Obi, M. C. K.  
Odebunmi, J. D.  
Odey, J. U.  
Odigbo, V. A.  
Odo, E. A.  
Odulana, A. F.  
Odurinde, A. A.  
Ogbalu, F. C.  
Ogedengbe, S. A.  
Ogundipe, S. O.  
Ogunkanmi, E. J.  
Ogunsanya, A. O.  
Okay, D. D. U.  
Okeke, Dr P. U.  
Okoronkwo, F. I.  
Okunowo (M.B.E.), Chief E. O.  
Oladapo, S. A.  
Oladiran (Oba), S. A.  
Olaore, J. O.  
Olatunde, P. B.  
Olomoda, M. Abdusalami  
Oloyede, T. O.  
Onugu, N. N.  
Onwuchekwa, I. S.  
Opia, A.  
Orok, Chief R. A.  
Oronsaye, D. N.  
Oyewole, S. A.

Rahar, M. Abbas  
Ribadu, M. Ahmadu  
Ringim, Alhaji Saiyadi

Sadiq, M. Abba  
Saleh, M. Yerima  
Sanusi, M. Sarkin Abbas  
Senu-Oke, D.  
Sokoto, Shehu Na Ita

Tafida, Alhaji Aminu  
Taiwo, J. O.  
Tarka, J. S.  
Terab, M. Abba  
Tobun, L. O.  
Tokula, P. O.

Ubani Chief, M. W.  
Udenvi, J. U.  
Udo-Inyang, D. S.  
Ukah, N. D.  
Ukegbu, B. N.  
Ukueku, I. E.  
Umar, M. Muhammadu Sagir  
Umoh, P. U.  
Usman, M. (Wazirin Kontagora)

## Name of Member

Wanbai, M. Muhtari Abdullahi  
Waziri, M. Maina  
Waziri, M. Umaru Dan  
  
Yacim, J. A.  
Yelwa, M. Muhammadu Aminu  
Yola, M. Abba  
Zango, M. Saidu

Commerce and Industry (Minister of)  
Defence (Minister of)  
Economic Development (Minister of)  
Establishment (Minister of)  
Finance (Minister of)  
External Affairs (Minister of)  
Information (Minister of)  
Internal Affairs (Minister of)  
Lagos Affairs (Minister of)  
Mines and Power (Minister of)  
Transport and Aviation (Minister of)  
Works and Surveys (Minister of)  
Adaji, Mallam Hashiru (Minister of State)  
Amechi, M. (Minister of State)  
Galadima, Alhaji Ibrahim Tako (Minister of State)  
Maitambari, Alhaji Usmanu (Minister of State)  
Mbadiwe, Dr K. O. (Minister of State)  
Olawejaju, M. A. O. (Minister of State)  
Omo-Osagie, Chief H. (Minister of State)

Ahmed, Alhaji Usman Angulu  
Bissalla, Alhaji Aliyu  
Fatika, M. Ahmadu  
Gezawa, M. Sanni  
Gombe, M. Hamza  
Isandu, M. Abubakar  
Lamuye, (Prince) A.  
Mapeo, Dominic M.  
Nwika, S. F.  
Offor, F. E.  
Okilo, M. O.  
Ugwu, D. C.  
Zungum, M. Aliyu

## Tellers for Ayes

Alhaji B. Dandago  
Prince D. N. Abii

## Tellers for Noes

E. D. Akinbowale  
J. O. Olaore

Ayes—238

Noes—Nil

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

LAGOS TOWN PLANNING (COMPENSATION)

BILL—CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1-2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.  
Bill reported, without Amendment.

Question, That the Bill be now read the Third time, put and the House divided.

## Name of Member

## AYES

Abasi, S. A.  
Abdul, M. Salihu O.  
Abdullahi, Alhaji Rilwanu  
Abubakar, Alhaji Abdulkadir  
Abubakar, M. Garba Jabo  
Abubakar, Alhaji (Magajin Gari)  
Abubakar, M. Tanko  
Adamu, Alhaji (Sarkin Tafarki)  
Adeyemo, B. A.  
Afolabi, R. A.  
Aghahowa, D. E. Y.  
Ahamefule, D. O.  
Allanana, M. Yakubu  
Ajasin, M. A.  
Ajibola, A. A.  
Akerere, Chief A.  
Akin-Olugbade, Chief O. B.  
Akinyemi, J. A.  
Akor, J. A.  
Akpan, P. O.  
Akwiwu, E. C.  
Alangade, M. A. Muhammadu  
Anzah, M. Auta  
Araka, E. O.  
Atiku, Alhaji  
Attahir, M.  
Ayeeni, U. O.

Baba, Alhaji Ahmadu A.  
Babandi, Alhaji Ahmadu  
Babatunde, S. A.  
Balla, M. Albatan Yerima  
Balami, M. Balangu  
Barko, M. Maaji Kachalla  
Bayero, Alhaji Abubakar  
Bayero, M. Hamidu A.  
Bayero, Alhaji Kabiru  
Bichi, Alhaji Bello Farar Hula  
Billyong, M. D. Bulus  
Briggs, W. O.  
Bungudu, M. Atto

Chiedozie, C.  
Chikelu, I. O.  
Chuku, H. O.  
Chukwu, D. N.  
Chukwu, J.

Dada, G. K.  
Dame-Oboh, Chief P.  
Danbappa, Alhaji Baba  
Daura, Alhaji L.  
Daura, M. Saidu  
De-Omomadia, J. K.  
Dosunmu, L. J.  
Dukku, M. Abdulkadir  
Dusinma, M. Bala Muhammadu  
Dutse, M. Aminu Suleiman

Eboigbodi, J. B.  
Ede, J. O.  
Effiong-Spatts, A. E.  
Ejukwa, P. L.

## Name of Member

Ekanem, P. E.  
Eko, U. U.  
Eleke, P. O.  
Elenwa, N. E.  
Emenogha, V. A.  
Erminue, O. J.  
Enefolu, D. O.  
Eneh, G. O. D.  
Enwo, N.  
Etukudo, T. I.  
Ezera, Dr K.

Fajimi, S. O.

Gada, M. Garba M.  
Gajiran, M. Muktar  
Galkogo, M. Umaru  
Garba, M. Turakin Paiko  
Gauyarma, Alhaji Muhammadu  
Gaza, C. Tangu  
Gella, M. Umaru  
Gbolagunte, D. M.  
Giadom, K.  
Gorzau, Alhaji Ahmadu  
Gumel, Alhaji Umaru  
Gusau, M. Ibrahim  
Gwandu, M. Haliru (Wakilin Gona)  
Gwarzo, M. Muhammadu  
Gwarzo, Alhaji Usman

Haruna, Alhaji Isa  
Haruna, Alhaji Wakilin Daji  
Hindi, Zanna A. Musa

Ibrahim, Abubakar A.  
Ibrahim, Baba Shehu  
Idiong, S. U.  
Ifezue, E. O.  
Ihe, F. U.  
Ikeh, B. O.  
Iketuonye, V.  
Iko, M. Isa  
Ilesha, M. Yesufu  
Isa, M. Ladan  
Isa, Alhaji Zaraki

Jiah, M. Abel  
Janjuna, M. Muhammadu

Kaita, Alhaji Damale  
Kangiwa, M. Garba  
Kano, Alhaji Aminu  
Kaura, M. Ali Nakura  
Karani, M. Uwaisul  
Kirim, M. Abdu  
Kolade, S. O.  
Kudu, M. Datti  
Kumo, M. Muhammadu  
Kura, Alhaji Muhammadu

Lar, S. D.  
Layya, M. Shekarau Ka'a

Mahuta, M. Abdullahi (Galadima Katsina)  
Maidugu, M. Abdulkadir (Dan Iyan Hadejia)  
Maigari, M. Haikali  
Maikaita, M. Dambo Ibrahim  
Maikayari, M. Galadima

## Name of Member

Maitama, M. Ibrahim Na  
Maltumbi, Alhaji Umaru  
Mani, M. Iro  
Mariere, Chief S. J.  
Mashi, M. Iro (Iyan Katsina)  
Mbah, A. U. D.  
Mohamed, M. Yusha'u A.  
Mohamed-Munir, Alhaji (Mutawallin Kano)  
Monguno, Shettima Ali  
Monguno, Zana Isa  
Muhammadu, Alhaji Aliyu  
Muhammadu, Alhaji (Sarkin Gobir)  
Muhtari, Alhaji Mohammed (Sarkin Bai)  
Muku, M. Ibrahim  
Muojeke, R. N.  
Muri, Alhaji Adamu

Nadabo, M. Ibrahim  
Nas, M. Wada  
Ningi, M. Muhammed  
Nnaji, S.  
Nwaleji, V. A.  
Nwangbo, N.  
Nwofokoda, J. N.

Obi, M. C. K.  
Odebunmi, J. D.  
Odey, J. U.  
Odigbo, V. A.  
Odo, E. A.  
Odulana, A. F.  
Odurinde, A. A.  
Ogbalu, F. C.  
Ogedengbe, S. A.  
Ogundipe, S. O.  
Ogunkanmi, E. J.  
Ogunsanya, A. O.  
Okay, D. D. U.  
Okeke, Dr P. U.  
Okoronkwo, F. I.  
Okunowo (M.B.E.), Chief E. O.  
Oladapo, S. A.  
Oladiran (Oba), S. A.  
Olatunde, D. P.  
Olomoda, M. Abdusalami  
Oluyede, T. O.  
Onugu, N. N.  
Onwuchekwa, I. S.  
Opia, A.  
Orok, Chief R. A.  
Oronsaye, D. N.  
Oyewole, S. A.

Rahar, M. Abbas  
Ribadu, M. Ahmadu

Sadiq, M. Abba  
Sanusi, M. Sarkin Abbas  
Senu-Oke, D.  
Sokoto, Shehu Na Ita  
Swem, Kundu

## Name of Member

Tafida, Alhaji Aminu  
Taiwo, J. O.  
Tarka, J. S.  
Terab, M. Abba  
Tobun, L. O.  
Tokula, P. O.  
Ubani Chief, M. W.  
Udenyi, J. U.  
Udo-Inyang, D. S.  
Ukah, N. D.  
Ukegbu, B. N.  
Ukpong, B. U.  
Ukueku, J. E.  
Umar, M. Muhammadu Sagir  
Umoh, P. U.  
Usman, M. (Wazirin Kontagora)  
Umaru, Madagali  
Waziri, M. Maina  
Waziri, M. Umaru Dan  
Yacim, J. A.  
Yelwa, M. Muhammadu Aminu  
Yola, M. Abba  
Zango, M. Saidu

Commerce and Industry (Minister of)  
Defence (Minister of)  
Economic Development (Minister of)  
Establishment (Minister of)  
Finance (Minister of)  
External Affairs (Minister of)  
Information (Minister of)  
Internal Affairs (Minister of)  
Lagos Affairs (Minister of)  
Mines and Power (Minister of)  
Transport and Aviation (Minister of)  
Works and Surveys (Minister of)

Adaji, Mallam Hashiru (Minister of State)  
Amechi, M. (Minister of State)  
Galadima, Alhaji Ibrahim Tako (Minister of State)  
Maitambari, Alhaji Usmanu (Minister of State)  
Mhadiwe, Dr K. O. (Minister of State)  
Olarewaju, M. A. O. (Minister of State)

Ahmed, Alhaji Usman Angulu  
Bissalla, Alhaji Aliyu  
Fatika, M. Ahmadu  
Gezawa, M. Sanni  
Gombe, M. Hamza  
Isandu, M. Abubakar  
Lamuye, (Prince) A.  
Mapeo, Dominic M.  
Nwika, S. F.  
Offor, F. E.  
Okilo, M. O.  
Ugwu, D. C.  
Zungum, M. Aliyu

## Tellers for Ayes

Alhaji B. Dandago  
Chief D. N. Abii

## Tellers for Noes

E. D. Akinbowale  
J. O. Olaore

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
(1963-64) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I have it in command from His Excellency, the President, to move that a Bill entitled—

“A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Four Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty Pounds for the purpose of replacing advances from the Contingencies Fund and of making further provision from the service of the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Four; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act”, be now read a Second time.

Since Parliament last met to authorise supplementary provision in the current financial year, I have authorised withdrawals from the Contingencies Fund to the extent of £308,430 to meet urgent and inescapable public expenditures.

I am bound to report such releases from the Contingencies Fund to Parliament at its next ensuing meeting in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 of the Third Schedule of the Finance (Control and Management) Act, and also to seek Parliamentary authority to replenish the Contingencies Fund to its statutory level of £1 million. The details of such releases from the Fund are given under Head 101 of the draft Second Supplementary Estimates, (1963-64) now before you. The explanatory details at the bottom of Head 101—Reimbursement to the Contingencies Fund, give some of the details of the expenditure from the Contingencies Fund.

It is, however, customary for me to make some more detailed explanation. A provision of £20,000 was made to the Ministry of Labour to augment the subvention to the National Sports Council. Members are already aware of the Federal Government's desire to improve the standard of sports in Nigeria. This is another indication of Government's willingness to encourage sports.

As a result of five bye-elections in the North, and one in the Mid-West, it became apparent that the provision for bye-elections already

approved by Parliament had to be augmented. Since the date for the bye-elections had already been fixed and since it was impossible to postpone them until additional provision had been approved by Parliament, it was necessary to resort to the Contingencies Fund.

Members are already familiar with the break-up of most of the West African Research Organisations. The West African Institute of Trypanosomiasis Research, which is situated in Nigeria, became our responsibility from the 1st of October, 1962, but when the Estimates for the current financial year were prepared, the extent of our liability for this Research Institute was not determined. In order to cover the total cost of running the Institute from October 1962 to March 1963 and to cover its additional financial requirements this year, it was necessary to authorise an expenditure of £123,430 from the Contingencies Fund.

Apart from the additional subventions of £46,000 and £84,000 required for the Lagos University Medical School and the Teaching Hospital, respectively, in order to keep the going until the end of the financial year, the next withdrawal from the Contingencies Fund that needs mentioning is that of £20,000 for the Mid-Western Region's elections. Members will already have noticed that there is a further new money of £80,000 for these elections. This will bring the total provision under the item to £100,000. It is expected that the elections will be held in the next few weeks. It was apparent to me that preparations for the elections would have to be put in hand before Parliamentary approval of the expenditure could be obtained, and I therefore authorised preliminary expenditure of £20,000 from the Contingencies Fund, with the intention that the further sums required would have to be approved in advance by Parliament.

Regional elections generally are a charge against Regional funds, but as the arrangements for the first Mid-Western Region elections are being made by the Federal Government, it is necessary for Parliament to appropriate the sums needed to cover the election expenses. When the total cost is finally ascertained, the Mid-Western Region will be required to reimburse the Federal Government.

Apart from the reimbursement to the Contingencies Fund and the further £80,000 required to bring the total provision for the

Mid-Western Region elections to £100,000, there is a further provision of £57,000 under Head 62, sub-head 7—Members Travelling Expenses. When the annual Estimates were presented to Parliament in April last, it was envisaged that the House would meet for a total of four times in the current financial year. But already, hon. Members are aware the House has met five times this year and provision must also be made for the Budget meeting of Parliament in March next.

I have on several occasions on the Floor of this House emphasised the importance of maintaining tight control over recurrent expenditure if the present Six-Year Development Plan is to achieve the success we all desire. Apart from the reimbursement to the Contingencies Fund Members will observe that the additional appropriations now required are under two Heads only and are also for items which we cannot, in any way, avoid. I therefore commend it for the approval of this honourable House.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Hon. J. C. Obando): I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker:** Under Standing Orders, debate stands adjourned for two days.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Tomorrow.

**Several hon. Members:** Two days!

**Mr Speaker:** Order. I am aware that the Bill will be discussed tomorrow, but there is no order to that effect; so I can only follow the Standing Orders. If the Minister of Finance wants it to be discussed tomorrow, then he will have to introduce a Motion to that effect.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1962-63)  
BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I have it in command from His Excellency the President, to move—

That a Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Four Hundred and Eight Thousand and Forty Pounds for the purpose of making further provision for the service of the year which ended on the Thirty-first day of March, One thousand, Nine hundred and

Sixty-three and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act be read a Second time.

The Director of Federal Audit in his report on the accounts of the Government of the Federation for the year ended on the 31st March, 1963, just received in my Ministry, disclosed expenditure under four Heads in excess of sums appropriated by this House. Arrangements are on hand to print the report in the form in which it is generally circulated to Members, but it is necessary to seek Parliamentary approval for the excess expenditure under the four Heads which are listed in the schedule to the Bill for the Supplementary Appropriation (1962-63) Act, 1964 now before you.

I am satisfied that the excess expenditure of £204,844 on Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—arose purely from a clerical error in the Estimates. What Parliament appropriated for Head 30 was £241,900 short of the requirement for the Ministry of Economic Development as detailed under Head 30. Had this error in the preparation of the final summary of the requirements under Head 30 not arisen there would have been a net saving of £37,056 on the Head.

The excess of £132,333 on Head 65—Non-Statutory Appropriations of Revenue—is only a technical excess. More revenue was collected than was earlier anticipated from export duties on such items as reptile skins, animals, birds and reptiles, and fur skins, under Revenue Head 1. The increased revenue from these items meant a corresponding increase in the non-statutory allocations to the Regions represented by the excess under Head 65.

As for the excesses under Head 33—Forestry (Research) and Head 48—Prisons—my Ministry is examining the causes of the excess expenditure and I shall not hesitate to recommend disciplinary measures if I am satisfied that there has been a lapse in the control of public expenditure in the two Departments.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

3255 [Supplementary Appropriation (1962-63) Bill] 9 JANUARY 1964

[Interpretation Bill]

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1962-63)  
BILL:

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

**The Chairman:** The Clauses to this Bill stand postponed until after consideration of the Schedule.

HEAD 30.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

£204,844 for Head 30—Ministry of Economic Development—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

## HEAD 33.—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

£1,435 for Head 33—Forestry (Research)—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

## HEAD 48.—PRISONS

£69,428 for Head 48—Prisons—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 65—NON-STATUTORY.  
APPROPRIATIONS OF REVENUE

£132,333 for Head 65—Non-Statutory Appropriations of Revenue—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

The total sum of £408,040—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Postponed Clauses 1 and 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

## INTERPRETATION BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to provide for the construction and interpretation of Acts of Parliament (Subsidiary Legislation) and other Instruments be read a Second time.

This Bill fulfils the promise I made to the House when we were considering the Constitution of the Federation last September.

At that time, I pointed out that the constitutional changes that had taken place up to the date required that we should have a new Interpretation Act which would take account of those changes. The existing Interpretation Act was enacted in 1936 and hon. Members know that a number of changes have taken place in the constitutional set up in the country as well as in our Statute Law.

Attempts have been made from time to time to bring this up-to-date by piecemeal legislation but it is thought that with the advent of a republican status in the country, it is necessary that we should have an entirely new Act and that is what this Bill has sought to provide.

When we completed the drafting work the Bill was submitted to the various legal heads in the country including the Nigerian Bar Association and also the Judges of the Courts for their comments before it was finally adopted by the Government.

It is not easy for me to take the purely technical aspects of this Bill—the Bill contains no order—and try to confuse the House with the difficult or complex legal arguments that will follow. But if any Member feels that any particular provision ought to be changed or explained, I should be willing to do so.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I beg to second.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): We support this Bill very fully and we think it is overdue. It should not only be restricted to Constitution and we are hoping that in future the Attorney-General will bring up wholesale legislation to amend the whole Interpretation Act which is—

**The Minister of Justice:** That is exactly the thing that has just been introduced. What the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) is referring to is contained in the second Bill which I shall be moving later and which relates to the Constitution.

**Mr Briggs:** In that case then, I thank the Attorney-General for correcting me. Unfortunately, I was looking at the Constitution (Interpretation) Bill. Some of the provisions in the Interpretation Bill Act are either out of date or inadequate or have been overtaken by Regional legislations.

[Interpretation Bill]

9 JANUARY 1964

[Interpretation Bill]

3258

I will give one example which I think the hon. Attorney-General must be familiar with. The interpretation of "Chief" in the old Interpretation Ordinance is: "Any person who has control and influence over the native community—". But the interpretation of "Chief" in the Classification of Chiefs Law in the Eastern Region is: "Any person who is recognised as such by the Government."

Well, under section 80 of the Eastern Nigeria Constitution, any question relating to Chiefs cannot be taken to court without the jurisdiction of the court in matters relating to chiefs. It now comes to this. Who then is a chief? Should we go to this Classification of Chiefs Law of the Eastern Region or to the Interpretation Ordinance which says: "Anybody who has influence and control over the native communities"—which also can refer to even the head of the Ogboni Fraternity, since it is a native community? We hope that the Attorney-General will look into all these and not simply bring a piece-meal legislation which probably may be considered good because of the time specified and the exigencies of the situation. Indeed, we require a very comprehensive Bill which will cover the whole country.

**The Minister of Justice:** There can be no more comprehensive Bill than this, and I will be very glad to welcome any suggestion from the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*).

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): I thank the Attorney-General for bringing this Bill up, and also for indicating that he is prepared to listen to suggestions.

Yesterday, I pointed out that something was omitted in the Interpretation Bill, and that is the phrase "ex officio." Now I say that that phrase, when used in ordinary parlance (and I think in legal parlance also) connotes a residual meaning. I will give one example. Yesterday, the Mid-Western Constitution Bill was passed and some inhabitants of the Mid-West were named as *ex officio* members of the House of Chiefs. But here, in section 9 of that Constitution, the qualifications for the President of the House of Chiefs are stated as follows—with your permission, Mr Speaker, I beg to read:

*There shall be a President of the House of Chiefs, who shall be elected by the members of that House.*

*No person shall be elected as President of the House of Chiefs unless he is a member of the House or a Chief qualified for selection as a member of the House.*

But there is nothing defining *ex officio*. And if any aggrieved person takes the matter to court and challenges it, he is likely to win on the understanding that the phrase *ex officio* gives a double interpretations. He can either be the first member or the last member. It is capable of double interpretation. For this reason, I would appeal to the Attorney-General to add the phrase *ex officio* to the interpretations.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central): This Bill is very welcome in its entirety. It deals with the activities of the Attorney-General. But at this juncture, one must remember that there is a crying need for most of our substantive laws to be amended. I have in mind the question of something like the company law. It is archaic. The company law which we are still using is the one passed in England in 1948. There have been series of amendments to this in England since then, but up till now, nothing has been done to bring ours, the most important social legislation, up to date.

Last time, when we came here for the Budget meeting, we were promised that a legislation about hire purchase will be brought to this House to be passed. We know that it is one of the leading laws of eminent modern countries. It is very important. But nothing is being done by this Government to see that the crying need of the nation is met in one way or the other.

As I have mentioned, these are the laws which lawyers call the law of procedure; laws like the law of tort, the law of contract, and so on. Nothing has actually been done by this Government in this respect.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Hon. J. C. Obande): On a point of order, the Member for Awka Central (*Mr Muojeke*) is irrelevant. He is not speaking directly on this Bill.

**Mr Speaker:** Surely the hon. Gentleman has gone quite a long way off from the Interpretation Bill.

**Mr Muojeke:** As I have said, the Bill is very welcome. We are asking the Attorney-General to bring more legislations to meet the crying needs of the nation. Something should be done as regards the company law, hire

[Mr MCOJEKE]

purchase law, the law of finance houses, the law of insurance, friendly societies law, trade union law, and so on. This is very important. That is what we need so that when any interpretation law or act is brought, it will be read in conjunction with all of them and will apply to all of them.

I support the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

INTERPRETATION BILL : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-17—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 18—(INTERPRETATION OF PARTICULAR EXPRESSIONS ; ETC.)*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice :** I wish to move an Amendment to Clause 18, page C 288, line 44—

Leave out from "1963" to end of line 48.

The reason for this Amendment is that since the Bill was sent to the Press the Ministry of Health has brought the Medical and Dental Practitioners' Act, 1963, into force by means of an Order. Up to the date of submission to the Press, this had not been done. And so the portion that I am now suggesting to be left out becomes necessary to be left out.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande) :** I beg to second.

*Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.*

*Clause 18, as amended—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 19-23—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 24—(OFFENCES UNDER MORE THAN ONE LAW).*

**Mr E. O. Araka (Onitsha Urban) :** In our Constitution, Chapter III, Section 22, Subsection (10), it is stated that no person shall be convicted of a criminal offence unless—

**The Chairman :** Order. The hon. Member perhaps does not realise that he is quite away from the microphone. Will he please speak louder.

**Mr Araka :** I am saying that Clause 24 of this Interpretation Bill which states that there can be a prosecution under common law, conflicts with the fundamental right under Chapter III of our Constitution, Section 22 Subsection (10) of which says that no person shall be convicted of any criminal offence unless that offence is defined and the penalty therefor is prescribed in a written law.

Now, under Clause 24 we are being told that one can be prosecuted under the common law—that is, for an offence not defined in any part of our written law. In my opinion, this conflicts with the main provision of our Constitution, which provides that one must know under what written law one is prosecuted. I do hope that the learned Attorney-General will see this and delete that part of it.

*Clause 24—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 25—(SERVICE BY POST).*

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** We are aware of what services are becoming in this country. This clause requires that a document may be served by posting. It says that it may be served by posting an envelope which contains the thing required to be served, and so on. It is a matter of detail, but I think that detail is worth putting in, in view of the fact that in some cases there are matters to be served and for good two years somebody will be playing around with it and it is not served. I would add that the word "registered" should be added after the word "envelope". The document should be served by posting the envelope under registered cover.

*Clause 25—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 26-29—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill reported, with Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE).*

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu (Awka North) :** I wish to seize this opportunity to say that the delay in an enactment on the hire-purchase law which has been promised on the Floor of this

House is something which has given some concern throughout the whole country. On behalf of the citizens of Nigeria we call upon the Minister responsible to see to it that the law on hire-purchase is revised and brought up to date.

**Mr Speaker :** This is not relevant.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

CONSTITUTION (INTERPRETATION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) :** This is an attempt to make provision for the application of the Bill which we have just passed, to the Constitution of the Federation. In the meetings of the Attorneys-General of the Federation, we all agreed that this will be the best way of dealing with this matter so as to have a measure of uniformity throughout the Federation. I believe that the other Regions will be introducing similar Bills with a view to applying the provisions of the Interpretation Bill.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :** I beg to second.

*Question put.*

**Mr Speaker :** In order to satisfy the provisions of section 42 of the Constitution of the Federation, I now direct that the House proceed to a division.

*The House divided.*

Ayes : 227

Noes : Nil.

Name of Member

Abasi, S. A.  
Abdul, M. Salihu O.  
Abdullahi, Alhaji Rilwanu  
Abii, D. N.  
Abubakar, Alhaji Abdulkadir  
Abubakar, M. Garba Jabo  
Abubakar, Alhaji (Magajin Gari)  
Abubakar, M. Tanko  
Adamu, Alhaji (Sarkin Tafarki)  
Adedamola, A.  
Adeyemo, B. A.  
Afanideh, M. B.

Afolabi, R. A.  
Aghahowa, D. E. Y.  
Ahamefule, D. O.  
Allanana, M. Yakubu  
Ajasin, M. A.  
Ajibola, A. A.  
Akerle, Chief A.  
Akinyemi, J. A.  
Akor, J. A.  
Akpan, P. O.  
Akwiwu, E. C.  
Anzah, M. Auta  
Araka, E. O.  
Atiku, Alhaji  
Atiku, M. Umaru Madagali  
Attahir, M.  
Ayeni, U. O.

Baba, Alhaji Ahmadu A.  
Babandi, Alhaji Ahmadu  
Babatunde, S. A.  
Balla, M. Albatan Yerima  
Balami, M. Balangu  
Barko, M. Maaji Kachalla  
Bauchi, M. Abdu  
Bayero, Alhaji Abubakar  
Bayero, M. Muhammadu  
Bichi, Alhaji Bello Farar Hula  
Bici, M. Ismaila Abdullahi  
Bida, M. Muhammadu (Iyan Sokoto)  
Billiyong, M. D. Buius  
Biu, M. Sule Abba  
Briggs, W. O.  
Brown, I. A.  
Bungudu, M. Atto

Chiedozi, C.  
Chikelu, I. O.  
Chuku, H. O.  
Chukwu, J.

Dada, G. K.  
Damla, J. M.  
Danbappa, Alhaji Baba  
Daura, Alhaji L.  
Daura, M. Saidu  
De-Omomadia, J. K.  
Dosunmu, L. J.  
Dukku, M. Abdulkadir  
Dusinma, M. Bala Muhammadu  
Dutse, M. Aminu Suleiman

Eboigbodi, J. B.  
Ede, J. O.  
Effiong-Spatts, A. E.  
Ejukwa, P. I.  
Ekanem, P. E.  
Eko, U. U.  
Eleke, P. O.  
Elenwa, N. E.  
Emenogha, V. A.  
Eminue, O. J.  
Enefolu, D. O.  
Eneh, G. O. D.  
Enwo, N.  
Etukudo, T. I.  
Ezera, Dr K.  
Fajimi, S. O.

Gada, M. Garba M.  
Gajira, M. Muktar  
Galkogo, M. Umaru  
Garba, M. Turakin Paiko  
Gauyarma, Alhaji Muhammadu  
Gaza, C. Tangul  
Gella, M. Umaru  
Gbolagunte, D. M.  
Gumel, Alhaji Umaru  
Gusau, M. Ibrahim  
Gwandu, M. Haliru (Wakilin Gona)  
Gwarzo, M. Muhammadu  
Gwarzo, Alhaji Usman  
Gwate, Alhaji Muhammadu

Haruna, Alhaji Isa  
Haruna, Alhaji Wakilin Daji  
Hindi, Zanna A. Musa

Ibrahim, Abubakar A.  
Ibrahim, Baba Shehu  
Idiong, S. U.  
Ifezue, E. O.  
Igwe, J. O.  
Ihe, F. U.  
Ikeh, B. O.  
Iketuonye, V.  
Iko, M. Isa  
Ilesha, M. Yesufu  
Isa, M. Ladan  
Isa, Alhaji Zaraki

Jiah, M. Abel  
Janjuna, M. Muhammadu

Kaita, Alhaji Damale  
Kangiwa, M. Garba  
Kano, Alhaji Aminu  
Kaura, M. Ali Nakura  
Karani, M. Uwaisul  
Kirim, M. Abdu  
Kolade, S. O.  
Kumo, M. Muhammadu  
Kura, Alhaji Muhammadu

Lajide, V. L.  
Lar, S. D.  
Layya, M. Shekarau Ka'a

Mahuta, M. Abdullahi (Galadima Katsina)  
Maidugu, M. Abdulkadir (Dan Iyan Hadejia)  
Maigari, M. Haikali  
Maikaita, M. Dambo Ibrahim  
Maikayari, M. Galadima  
Maitama, M. Ibrahim Na  
Maltumbi, Alhaji Umaru  
Mani, M. Iro  
Mariere, Chief S. J.  
Mashi, M. Iro (Iyan Katsina)  
Mohamed, M. Yusha'u A.  
Mohamed-Munir, Alhaji (Mutawallin Kano)  
Monguno, Shettima Ali  
Mordi, E. A.  
Muhammadu, Alhaji Aliyu  
Muhammadu, Alhaji (Sarkin Gobir)  
Muhtari, Alhaji Mohammed (Sarkin Bai)  
Muku, M. Ibrahim  
Muojeke, R. N.  
Muri, Alhaji Adamu

Nadabo, M. Ibrahim  
Nas, M. Wada  
Ningi, M. Muhammed  
Nnaji, S.  
Nwalieji, V. A.  
Nwangbo, N.  
Nweke, O. O.  
Nwofokoda, J. N.

Obi, M. C. K.  
Odebunmi, J. D.  
Odey, J. U.  
Odigbo, V. A.  
Odo, E. A.  
Odulana, A. F.  
Ogbalu, F. C.  
Ogedengbe, S. A.  
Ogunbiyi, J. O.  
Ogundipe, S. O.  
Ogunkanmi, E. J.  
Ogunsanya, A. O.  
Okay, D. D. U.  
Okeke, Dr P. U.  
Okoronkwo, F. I.  
Okunowo (M.B.E.), Chief E. O.  
Oladiran (Oba), S. A.  
Olatunde, D. P.  
Olomoda, M. Abdusalami  
Oloyede, T. O.  
Onugu, N. N.  
Opia, A.  
Orok, Chief R. A.  
Oronsaye, D. N.  
Oyewole, S. A.

Ribadu, M. Ahmadu  
Ringim, Alhaji Saiyadi  
Rosiji Chief, Ayo

Sadiq, M. Abba  
Sanusi, M. Sarkin Abbas  
Senu-Oke, D.  
Sokoto, Shehu Na Ita

Tafida, Alhaji Aminu  
Taiwo, J. O.  
Tarka, J. S.  
Terab, M. Abba  
Tobun, L. O.  
Tokula, P. O.

Ubani, Chief M. W.  
Udenyi, J. U.  
Udo-Inyang, D. S.  
Ukah, N. D.  
Ukegbu, B. N.  
Ukpong, B. U.  
Ukueku, J. E.  
Umar, M. Muhammadu Sagir  
Umoh, P. U.  
Usman, M. (Wazirin Kontagora)

Waziri, M. Maina  
Waziri, M. Umaru Dan  
Yacim, J. A.  
Yelwa, M. Muhammadu Aminu  
Yola, M. Abba  
Zango, M. Saidu

Commerce and Industry (Minister of)  
Defence (Minister of)  
Education (Minister of)  
Establishment (Minister of)  
Finance (Minister of)  
External Affairs (Minister of)  
Internal Affairs (Minister of)  
Lagos Affairs (Minister of)  
Mines and Power (Minister of)  
Transport and Aviation (Minister of)  
Works and Surveys (Minister of)  
Adaji, Mallam Hashiru (Minister of State)  
Galadima, Alhaji Ibrahim Tako (Minister of State)  
Maitambari, Alhaji Usmanu (Minister of State)  
Mbadiwe, Dr K. O. (Minister of State)  
Olarewaju, M. A. O. (Minister of State)

Ahmed, Alhaji Usman Angulu  
Bissalla, Alhaji Aliyu  
Fatika, M. Ahmadu  
Gezawa, M. Sanni  
Gombe, M. Hamza  
Isandu, M. Abubakar  
Lamuye, (Prince) A.  
Mapeo, Dominic M.  
Nwika, S. F.  
Offor, F. E.  
Okafor, R. B. K.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

## CONSTITUTION (INTERPRETRATION) BILL :

## CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1-2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE).

Question put.

Mr Speaker : In order to satisfy the provisions of the Constitution, I direct that the House proceed to a Division.

The House divided.

Ayes : 221      Noes : Nil

Name of Member

Abasi, S. A.  
Abdul, M. Salihu O.  
Abdullahi, Alhaji Rilwanu

Abii, D. N.  
Abubakar, Alhaji Abdulkadir  
Abubakar, M. Garba Jabo  
Abubakar, M. Mohammed Sani  
Abubakar, M. Tanko  
Adamu, Alhaji (Sarkin Tafawa Balewa)  
Adedamola, A.  
Adeyemo, B. A.  
Afanideh, M. B.  
Afolabi, R. A.  
Aghahowa, D. E. Y.  
Ahamefula, D. O.  
Allanana, M. Yakubu  
Ajasin, M. A.  
Ajibola, A. A.  
Akinyemi, J. A.  
Akor, J. A.  
Akpan, P. O.  
Akwiwu, E. C.  
Alangade, M. A. Muhammadu  
Anzah, M. Auta  
Araka, E. O.  
Atiku, Alhaji  
Atiku, M. Umaru Madagali  
Attahir, M.  
Ayeni, U. O.  
Baba, Alhaji Ahmadu A.  
Babandi, Alhaji Ahmadu  
Babatunde, S. A.  
Balla, M. Albatan Yerima  
Balami, M. Balangu  
Barko, M. Maaji Kachalla  
Bauchi, M. Abdu  
Bayero, Alhaji Abubakar  
Bayero, M. Hamidu A.  
Bayero, Alhaji Kabiru  
Bayero, M. Muhammadu  
Bichi, Alhaji Bello Farar Hula  
Bici, M. Ismaila Abdullahi  
Billiyong, M. D. Bulus  
Biu, M. Sule Abba  
Briggs, W. O.  
Brown, J. A.  
Bungudu, M. Atto  
Chiedozie, C.  
Chikelu, I. O.  
Chuku, H. O.  
Chukwu, J.  
Dada, G. K.  
Damlam, J. M.  
Danbappa, Alhaji Baba  
Daura, Alhaji L.  
Daura, M. Saidu  
De-Omomadia, J. K.  
Dosunmu, L. J.  
Dukku, M. Abdulkadir  
Dusinma, M. Bala Muhammadu  
Dutse, M. Aminu Suleiman  
Eboigbodi, J. B.  
Ede, J. O.  
Effiong-Spatts, A. E.  
Ejukwa, P. I.  
Ekanem, P. E.  
Eko, U. U.  
Eleke, P. O.  
Elenwa, N. E.  
Emenogha, V. A.  
Eminue, O. J.

Enefola, D. O.  
Eneh, C. O. D.  
Enwo, N.  
Etukudo, T. I.  
Ezera, Dr K.

Fajimi, S. O.

Gada, M. Garba M.  
Gajiran, M. Muktar  
Galkogo, M. Umaru  
Garba, M. Turakin Paiko  
Gauyarma, Alhaji Muhammadu  
Gella, M. Umaru  
Gbolagunte, D. M.  
Gumel, Alhaji Umaru  
Gusau, M. Ibrahim  
Gwandu, M. Haliru (Wakilin Gona)  
Gwarzo, M. Alli  
Gwarzo, M. Muhammadu  
Gwate, Alhaji Muhammadu

Haruna, Alhaji Isa  
Haruna, Alhaji Wakilin Daji  
Hindi, Zanna A. Musa

Ibrahim, Abubakar A.  
Ibrahim, Baba Shebu  
Idiong, S. U.  
Ifezue, E. O.  
Igwe, J. O.  
Ihe, F. U.  
Ikeh, B. O.  
Iketuonye, V.  
Ilesha, M. Yesufu  
Isa, M. Ladan  
Isa, Alhaji Zaraki

Jiah, M. Abel  
Janjuna, M. Muhammadu

Kaita, Alhaji Damale  
Kangiwa, M. Garba  
Kano, Alhaji Aminu  
Kaura, M. Ali Nakura  
Kolade, S. O.  
Kudu, M. Datti  
Kumo, M. Muhammadu  
Kura, Alhaji Muhammadu

Lajide, V. L.  
Lar, S. D.  
Layya, M. Shekarau Ka'a

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Maidugu, M. Abdulkadir (Dan Iyan Hadejia)  
Maigari, M. Haikali  
Maikayari, M. Galadima  
Maitama, M. Ibrahim Na  
Maltumbi, Alhaji Umaru  
Mani, M. Iro  
Mariere, Chief S. J.  
Mashi, M. Iro (Iyan Katsina)  
Mohamed, M. Yusha'u A.  
Mohamed-Munir, Alhaji (Mutawallin Kano)  
Monguno, Shettima Ali

Monguno, Zana Isa  
Mordi, E. A.  
Muhammadu, Alhaji Aliyu  
Muhammadu, Alhaji (Sarkin Gobir)  
Muhtari, Alhaji Mohammed (Sarkin Bai)  
Muku, M. Ibrahim  
Muojeke, K. N.  
Muri, Alhaji Adamu

Nadabo, M. Ibrahim  
Nas, M. Wada  
Ningi, M. Muhammed  
Nnaji, S.  
Nwalieji, V. A.  
Nwangbo, N.  
Nweke, O. O.  
Nwofokoda, J. N.

Obi, M. C. K.  
Odebunmi, J. D.  
Odey, J. U.  
Odigbo, V. A.  
Odo, E. A.  
Odulana, A. F.  
Ogbalu, F. C.

Ogunbiyi, J. O.  
Ogundipe, S. O.  
Ogunkanmi, E. J.  
Ogunsanya, A. O.  
Okay, D. D. U.  
Okeke, Dr P. U.  
Oladapo, S. A.  
Oladiran, (Oba) S. A.  
Olatunde, D. P.  
Olomoda, M. Abdusalami  
Oloyede, T. O.  
Onugu, N. N.  
Onwuchekwa, I. S.  
Opia, A.  
Orok, Chief R. A.  
Oronsaye, D. N.  
Oyewole, S. A.

Rahar, M. Abbas  
Ribadu, M. Ahmadu  
Ringim, Alhaji Saiyadi  
Rosiji, Chief Ayo

Sadiq, M. Abba  
Sanusi, M. Sarkin Abbas  
Senu-Oke, D.  
Sokoto, Shehu Na Ita

Tafida, Alhaji Aminu  
Taiwo, J. O.  
Tarka, J. S.  
Terab, M. Abba  
Tokula, P. O.

Udenyi, J. U.  
Udo-Inyang, D. S.  
Ukah, N. D.  
Ukegbu, B. N.  
Ukpong, B. U.

## Names of Member

Ukueku, J. E.  
Umar, M. Muhammadu Sagir  
Umoh, P. U.  
Usman, M. (Wazirin Kontagora)  
Waziri, M. Maina  
Yacim, J. A.  
Yelwa, M. Muhammadu Aminu  
Yola, M. Abba  
Zango, M. Saidu

## MINISTERS

Commerce and Industry (Minister of)  
Defence (Minister of)  
Establishment (Minister of)  
Finance (Minister of)  
External Affairs (Minister of)  
Internal Affairs (Minister of)  
Lagos Affairs (Minister of)  
Mines and Power (Minister of)  
Transport and Aviation (Minister of)  
Works and Surveys (Minister of)  
Adaji, Mallam Hashiru (Minister of State)  
Galadima, Alhaji Ibrahim Tako (Minister of State)  
Maitambari, Alhaji Usmanu (Minister of State)  
Mbadiye, Dr K. O. (Minister of State)  
Olarewaju, M. A. O. (Minister of State)

## PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Ahmed, Alhaji Usman Angulu  
Bissalla, Alhaji Aliyu  
Fatika, M. Ahmadu  
Gezawa, M. Sanni  
Gombe, M. Hamza  
Isandu, M. Abubakar  
Lamuye, (Prince) A.  
Mapeo, Dominic M.  
Nwika, S. F.  
Offor, F. E.  
Okafor, R. B. K.

## Tellers for Ayes

Alhaji B. Dandago  
A. U. D. Mbah

## Tellers for Noes

E. D. Akinbowale  
J. O. Olaore

Ayes—221

Noes—Nil

Bill read the Third time and passed.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for increasing the number of judges of the Supreme Court be read a Second time.

This short Bill is intended to raise the number of judges of what used to be the Federal Supreme Court under the Federal Supreme Court Act of 1960, from five to eight. This is to accommodate the change which we made under the Republican Constitution by providing in section 112 of that Constitution that there shall be judges of the Supreme Court of Nigeria appointed to represent the Regions.

I do not think that hon. Members will want any more explanation than that the change is needed to enable the Regional representatives to take their places.

I beg to move.

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

Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa): I have no quarrel with this Bill, but if what we read from the press is correct, then the Government should be told that the country is no more willing to have expatriates as judges in this country. We feel that our sons are qualified enough to be judges in this country. If it is true that any expatriate has been brought in, we hope the Government will send him back and perhaps pay him off for his contract.

We have now sent judges to East Africa and they are doing very well there; we are proud of them and we want to continue to help other parts of Africa with our sons. I think we will be feeling inferior in a way if we have to bring judges into this country and at the same time send out our own judges to other countries.

Moreover, we begin to feel that it is not time yet to scrap appeal to the Privy Council. If we feel that our African judges are not qualified enough or are not sincere enough to man our courts, then we should continue to send our appeals to the Privy Council.

Let that expatriate be sent back and paid off for his contract.

Mr V. Iketuonye (Onitsha South): It is indeed a welcome Bill to increase the number of the Federal judges from 5 to 8. But from what we have studied now, it is important that as far as we can, the choice of the judges should reflect the Federal character of the country. In increasing this number, it is important that we pay attention to the fact that the other Regions are included in the number of judges.



[MR IKETUONYE]

Secondly, we are getting afraid that our judges in the Federal Territory are not sufficiently isolated from politics and tribalism, and in order to ensure that both tribalism and politics do not interfere with the judiciary, it is all the more important that in selecting these judges attention should be paid to the four Regions of the Federation.

I beg to support.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural): This Bill is not controversial, and I am sure that is welcomed by all sides of the House because the object is to expedite the machinery for the dispensation of justice. It is also a move, as has been explained by the Attorney-General, to bring judges from the Regional Courts to take their positions on the Supreme Court Bench.

It has always happened that cases pile up in the Supreme Court, and I hope that this is an attempt to speed up things. In the first place, the increase in the number will spur up the officials and judges in the lower courts to see to it that appeals to the Supreme Court are ready in time and also that the records are ready. It is very tantalising and agonizing to the mind when an appellant has to wait for months and sometimes years without his case coming up for hearing in the Supreme Court or in any court of appeal. It is a disappointing incident that even after the treasonable felony case, the appeal is still pending because the records, we are told, are not ready. The question one would like to ask is, when will the records be ready?

I think that when people are involved in cases and appeals, justice should be done, and not only done, it should also appear to have been done. And so there is need for expediency in this case. Records should be got very promptly and speedily and then the country can have the satisfaction that it is receiving justice in the law courts.

I beg to support.

**Mr C. A. Odigbo** (Bende West): I beg to support the Bill, and in doing so I wish to emphasise the point already made by an hon. Member here that the appointment of expatriates in the judiciary seems to indicate loss of confidence or faith in the ability of our own men to run that arm of the Government.

I feel very strongly that if we claim to be moving in the right direction, and if we are proud of the fact that some of our nationals are now judges in other parts of Africa, it seems to be completely contradictory to take a course which shows that we have no confidence in our own men. We would, therefore, ask that this point be taken very seriously.

We do hope that this number is being increased for one very good reason. Lots and lots of people who have cases in court, especially cases of appeal, often find it very very depressing indeed to have to wait for years and years on end for their cases to come up. I think the increase in the number of judges will facilitate the hearing of cases and, therefore, remove the hardship which people are suffering at the moment.

We would again stress the very important point made about judges being completely neutral in politics. We are not happy that there is a tendency for judges to, in fact, show an inclination to take part in politics. There is a very clear evidence in this country now that some judges are taking on themselves to organise groups under whatever name they call it (*Interruption*)—

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman speaking is going against the rule of debate in this House. There is no judge in any of the Regions who is in politics, and if the hon. Gentleman knows there is one, when he gets out of here he could mention it. He is making an untrue statement.

**Mr Odigbo**: My point is that when we do increase this number, people who are known to be in politics or who are already in one form of politics or the other should not be appointed to the Bench as judges. We have clear cases in this country of people whose previous activities as members of parties or some quasi-party organisation have been detrimental to their fair practice of judgment in this country. We are really very much disturbed about this. People who are supposed to show to the Republic that they are completely neutral as far as politics is concerned do not show it.

**Chief A. Rosiji** (Egba East): Oh a point of order, I think that it is improper for Members of this House to criticise the Judiciary on the

Floor of this House, especially when they single out the judges. It is improper to criticize the judges here because of their position.

**Mr Speaker**: It is indeed out of order to discuss the conduct of judges in this House, but at the same time, I have listened, and attentively too, to the Member for Bende West (*Mr Odigbo*) and I find that he is merely speaking on the judges to be and not the present judges.

**Mr Odigbo**: The position of judges in this country is a very important one. We take pleasure in observing that some of the judges are definitely men of integrity and honour and they are also men who dispense justice in their courts, but there is this disturbing factor which we cannot do without emphasising.

We would very much like our judges to keep away from politics and anything that savours of tribalism. Without any intention to embarrass anybody we wish to emphasise what is a menace here because it is the interest of the country which is at stake. In appointing these judges their past activities should be taken into consideration. We believe that there are lawyers who can fill these posts in this country. Some of them are eminent enough to have been made Queen's Counsel, although nowadays we definitely think, and rightly too, that this is outdated and should not be used by anybody in this country. Eminent lawyers should however be recognised and encouraged. They can be encouraged by appointing them into this position of responsibility.

I beg to support.

**Mr Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): In supporting this Bill, I would like to say that it is not only the increase in the number of judges that counts in this Bill. The important thing in this Bill would not appear to have been seen. Representation of Regions in the Supreme Court is a clear evidence of this Government's intention to cater for the interest of all sections of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, but that should not be the end of the matter. What we want is that cases originating from the Regions should be dealt with in accordance with the laws of the Regions. It is not in all cases that the results of appeals which come from a Region to the Federal Supreme Court are in agreement with the laws of that particular Region. In that respect, if the

representation which the Federal Government is seeking is in order to reflect the oneness of the Federation, then consideration should be given to cases which come from the Regions, so that the laws of the Regions should be taken into consideration when such appeals are being heard.

It is very simple to increase the number of judges from eight to eleven in order to represent the Regions, but if the laws of the Regions of origin are not respected in deciding the issues then the increase has not served its purpose. This is something which should be carefully looked into by the Attorney-General, and I believe that I have the support of the Members who come from the Regions on this matter.

I therefore appeal to the Government to see that consideration is given to the laws of the Regions of origin when cases are sent to the Federal Supreme Court.

I beg to support.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos, Central): What I am going to say would appear to be crying over spilt milk but in spite of that I would like to say it.

Speaking for myself, I think this is a most undesirable Bill, and having listened to the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) I am further convinced that the objectives sought by this Bill are the more undesirable. What do we want to turn the Supreme Court to—a Statutory Corporation representative of the Regions? I think we are now reducing the status of our Supreme Court. The Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) keeps on emphasising, and most unfortunately the Attorney-General did say the same thing, that we want Regional representation in the Supreme Court. A lawyer is a lawyer, no matter where he comes from. There are some eminent Northern lawyers sitting on the High Court Benches.

**An hon. Member**: But that is a part of our Constitution.

**Mr Dosunmu**: That is why I say that it is crying over spilt milk, but speaking for myself, I think it is an undesirable thing and we are not doing the correct thing. I know it is a part of the Constitution, and what the Minister is doing now is just to rubber-stamp what the leaders who met at a Conference did agree to, but that does not reduce the force of the

[MR DOSUNMU] argument that this is a retrogressive step, especially when one listens to what the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) has said.

**An hon. Member :** But the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is not the Attorney-General.

**Mr Dosunmu :** No, but he is a Member of this House.

What I am saying is that if it becomes necessary to increase the membership of the Federal Supreme Court judges let it be done and let the recruitment or the appointment be made from any part of the Federation. If we like all the judges can come from the North. As long as they are qualified nobody minds. I know that there are good lawyers from the North who, apart from being Northerners are entitled to sit on the Supreme Court Benches. The same thing applies to the Western Region, the Eastern Region, the Federal territory of Lagos and even the Mid-Western Region. It is absurd to turn the Supreme Court into the Railway Corporation or the E.C.N. where some people will sit and say, "Oh, I am representing the Northern Region, or I am representing the Eastern Region".

If one appreciates what the implication of the statement made by the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is that a Judge should sit at the Federal Supreme Court as a representative of a Region and that such a judge should be a person who understands the laws of his particular Region. A Nigerian lawyer is supposed to know the laws of the Federation—East, West and North. After all there are so many expatriates in the Northern Region who are not Nigerians but they are administering the laws of Northern Nigeria. That does not matter. If tomorrow, I am made to sit in the Supreme Court, I would administer the law of the North as it is recorded in their statute Book. The fact that I am a southerner or a westerner would not have made any difference.

Any way, as I said, it is crying over spilt milk. We have bargained for what we have got. But I do hope that those who would be recruited from the Regions would not have narrow regional outlook and therefore interpret the law in order to suit the Region of origin. That is by the way.

Let me lend my support to the speeches which we have had on various sides of the House about the undesirability of further recruiting expatriates to the High Court Bench. What justification can anybody have in 1963 or 1964 for the recruitment of recruiting expatriate to a High Court Bench anywhere in Nigeria? I think it is a most indefensible policy and it is, to say the least, an unprogressive act to recruit an expatriate to sit in a High Court anywhere in the Federal territory of Nigeria.

Thank you.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): I would like to contribute to this subject in order that some people may not go away with the wrong idea. Is it not a fact that some Nigerian lawyers are so incapable of—

**Several hon. Members :** No, no.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) was particularly incapable. He was so incapable that the Minister of Justice had to introduce a Bill in order to open a school where the hon. Member could be improved.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): The hon. and respected Minister of Commerce and Industry has not read the Act to which he is making reference otherwise he should have realised that the Law School is for law students and not for lawyers.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I have read more than that. It is because the present local practising barristers have failed so woefully that they have to go to England for legal aid every time the Action Group or the N.C.N.C. is in trouble. Instead of looking for local talents they run to England and in order to rescue them from such shameful acts, the Minister of Justice had to introduce the Law School.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba): The Attorney-General of the Northern Region is an expatriate lawyer.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The Northern Minister of Justice is a fully qualified lawyer.

If I remember rightly, some Opposition Members do not like to travel in aeroplanes manned by Nigerian pilots. But the Minister of Defence and myself were the first Nigerians to travel on a plane manned by Nigerian pilots.

Whether the Opposition Members like it or not, Nigeria is a Federation and it is absolutely necessary that it should be governed in such a way that all interests are properly catered for.

Some lawyers boast about their English legal qualifications. May I honestly tell them that in Northern Nigeria, there are people who are much more learned in Arabic than some lawyers are, in the English language. If we in the North are more in number—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): We are not saying that we should not cater for all interests. What we are saying is that we should not put a premium on regionalism or tribalism and Nigeria is not an Arabic country.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) said that he was so ashamed of being a Nigerian in that he had to trace his origin to Egypt, because Egypt at that time was a powerful country.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** Where does the Minister of Commerce and Industry trace his origin to?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** To Bornu.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** Bornu has no origin.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Any way, the people of Bornu have a better origin than some Nigerians who were sent to Brazil and later brought back home.

The whole idea is this: I do not agree that it is good to preach and practise regionalism of any kind. The best way is for us to educate our people to change their outlook. If one goes to the Railway Corporation or the E.C.N. or the Income Tax Office, one would notice that people preach regionalism and discriminate against those who do not come from the "big guns". This is true. And I think I am right in saying that in 1977, and right here in

Lagos, our sons of blessed memory like Magnus Williams and others had to fight in order to make Nigerians to be proud of their motherland.

Any way, Members of this House should make it a point of duty to re-educate our people and make sure that all Nigerians behave alike.

**An hon. Member :** And you too.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** If I had not changed my way, I could have put you in the concentration camp.

**An hon. Member :** Where would you be yourself?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** You would not be in a position to ask that question.

I appeal to my brothers from certain sections of the community to behave and to teach their compatriots to behave as Nigerians quite honestly.

Now, somebody proudly told us that his side of the House was replete with professors and philosophers, but the party to which the professors and philosophers belong is the most disorganised party in the country! We do not like this sort of thing.

(Laughter).

**Mr Speaker :** Really, this seems to be developing into something beyond the scope of the Bill. Perhaps the House may allow the Attorney-General to speak, although there is hardly any time for reply.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

#### JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

##### Clause 1—(INCREASE IN NUMBER OF JUSTICES)

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): The number that is required in the Bill is eight, that is, the increase is three but the increase should actually be four because at present there are four Regions and not three. Therefore, if we are to follow the Regional representation as already stated by the hon. the Attorney-General, the number should be nine and not eight.

[MR DOSUNMU] argument that this is a retrogressive step, especially when one thinks to what the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) has said.

**An hon. Member :** But the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is not the Attorney-General.

**Mr Dosunmu :** No, but he is a Member of this House.

What I am saying is that if it becomes necessary to increase the membership of the Federal Supreme Court judges let it be done and let the recruitment or the appointment be made from any part of the Federation. If we like all the judges can come from the North. As long as they are qualified nobody minds. I know that there are good lawyers from the North who, apart from being Northerners are entitled to sit on the Supreme Court Benches. The same thing applies to the Western Region, the Eastern Region, the Federal territory of Lagos and even the Mid-Western Region. It is absurd to turn the Supreme Court into the Railway Corporation or the E.C.N. where some people will sit and say, "Oh, I am representing the Northern Region, or I am representing the Eastern Region".

If one appreciates what the implication of the statement made by the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) is that a Judge should sit at the Federal Supreme Court as a representative of a Region and that such a judge should be a person who understands the laws of his particular Region. A Nigerian lawyer is supposed to know the laws of the Federation—East, West and North. After all there are so many expatriates in the Northern Region who are not Nigerians but they are administering the laws of Northern Nigeria. That does not matter. If tomorrow, I am made to sit in the Supreme Court, I would administer the law of the North as it is recorded in their statute Book. The fact that I am a southerner or a westerner would not have made any difference.

Any way, as I said, it is crying over spilt milk. We have bargained for what we have got. But I do hope that those who would be recruited from the Regions would not have narrow regional outlook and therefore interpret the law in order to suit the Region of origin. That is by the way.

Let me lend my support to the speeches which we have had on various sides of the House about the undesirability of further recruiting expatriates to the High Court Bench. What justification can anybody have in 1963 or 1964 for the recruitment of recruiting expatriate to a High Court Bench anywhere in Nigeria? I think it is a most indefensible policy and it is, to say the least, an unprogressive act to recruit an expatriate to sit in a High Court anywhere in the Federal territory of Nigeria.

Thank you.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (*Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima*): I would like to contribute to this subject in order that some people may not go away with the wrong idea. Is it not a fact that some Nigerian lawyers are so incapable of—

**Several hon. Members :** No, no.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) was particularly incapable. He was so incapable that the Minister of Justice had to introduce a Bill in order to open a school where the hon. Member could be improved.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (*Ikeja*): The hon. and respected Minister of Commerce and Industry has not read the Act to which he is making reference otherwise he should have realised that the Law School is for law students and not for lawyers.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I have read more than that. It is because the present local practising barristers have failed so woefully that they have to go to England for legal aid every time the Action Group or the N.C.N.C. is in trouble. Instead of looking for local talents they run to England and in order to rescue them from such shameful acts, the Minister of Justice had to introduce the Law School.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (*Jemgba*): The Attorney-General of the Northern Region is an expatriate lawyer.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The Northern Minister of Justice is a fully qualified lawyer.

If I remember rightly, some Opposition Members do not like to travel in aeroplanes manned by Nigerian pilots. But the Minister of Defence and myself were the first Nigerian to travel on a plane manned by Nigerian pilots.

Whether the Opposition Members like it or not, Nigeria is a Federation and it is absolutely necessary that it should be governed in such a way that all interests are properly catered for.

Some lawyers boast about their English legal qualifications. May I honestly tell them that in Northern Nigeria, there are people who are much more learned in Arabic than some lawyers are, in the English language. If we in the North are more in number—

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (*Egba South*): We are not saying that we should not cater for all interests. What we are saying is that we should not put a premium on regionalism or tribalism and Nigeria is not an Arabic country.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) said that he was so ashamed of being a Nigerian in that he had to trace his origin to Egypt, because Egypt at that time was a powerful country.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** Where does the Minister of Commerce and Industry trace his origin to?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** To Bornu.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade :** Bornu has no origin.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Any way, the people of Bornu have a better origin than some Nigerians who were sent to Brazil and later brought back home.

The whole idea is this: I do not agree that it is good to preach and practise regionalism of any kind. The best way is for us to educate our people to change their outlook. If one goes to the Railway Corporation or the E.C.N. or the Income Tax Office, one would notice that people preach regionalism and discriminate against those who do not come from the "big guns". This is true. And I think I am right in saying that in 1947, and right here in

Lagos, our sons of blessed memory like Magnus Williams and others had to fight in order to make Nigerians to be proud of their motherland.

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(Laughter).

**Mr Speaker :** Really, this seems to be developing into something beyond the scope of the Bill. Perhaps the House may allow the Attorney-General to speak, although there is hardly any time for reply.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT BILL:  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(INCREASE IN NUMBER OF JUSTICES)

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (*Benin East*): The number that is required in the Bill is eight, that is, the increase is three but the increase should actually be four because at present there are four Regions and not three. Therefore, if we are to follow the Regional representation as already stated by the hon. the Attorney-General, the number should be nine and not eight.

Clause 1—(INCREASE IN NUMBER OF JUSTICES)  
—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without Amendment.

Sitting suspended : 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE).

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : It is a matter for regret that those who raised so many points in the morning are not here yet so that I can make a reply. I hope they will read the *Hansard* tomorrow.

There are two points that require an answer from me. The first was the reference made to the Bill by the Member for Lagos Central (Mr *Dosunmu*) and one or two other hon. Members. I should not have thought it necessary to comment on what they said—

Mr S. O. Kolade (Oyo South) : On a point of order, can the Minister reply when the quorum is not formed ?

Mr Speaker : I am afraid he can.

The Minister of Justice : I do not want the impression to gain ground that what we are doing in this Bill is, in fact, trying to write something into our law that is not authorised by the Constitution. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will read out section 112 of the Constitution to which I referred in the course of introducing that Bill so that hon. Members will judge for themselves whether we are really introducing a new principle or merely implementing the provision of the Constitution which we have all accepted.

There was no criticism of this particular aspect of the new judicial reform when this Constitution was debated here and, even if there was, it was obvious that the Constitution has become the law of the land and it is of very little use for anyone to stand up in this House and begin to attack something to which we have all contributed and which we have all accepted.

Section 112 (1) is the most relevant of this Constitution which I shall now proceed to read—

*"The Chief Justice of Nigeria and the Justices of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, so however that four of the Justices of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President acting on the advice, as respects each of those Justices severally, of the Premier of a different Region."*

From this hon. Members will note that what we are proposing to do in this Bill is to implement this particular provision by reference to the Federal Supreme Court Act of 1960. That act prescribes the maximum of five for the Judges of the Supreme Court. If we are to allow the Regions to send in their representatives on the new Supreme Court, it is necessary for us to enlarge that number from five to eight so that the four that are coming from the Regions along with the four that are now on the Court together with the Chief Justice will constitute a Bench of nine.

The further advantage in doing that is that hon. Members have complained in this House from time to time about the delay in hearing cases in the Supreme Court. The intention is that when the number is increased to nine it will be possible in the future for the Supreme Court to sit in two divisions and so quicken the hearing of cases.

The second point to which I think I should reply relates to the appointment of an expatriate Judge to the High Court Bench. I do not consider it strictly relevant to this Bill but, I think, again we must do something to correct any wrong impression that might be left on people's minds. I think I should say rightaway that this is not the doing of the Federal Government under the existing Constitution. The appointment had been made by a duly constituted body which at the material time some six months ago exercised its normal Constitutional powers to appoint this particular individual to whom reference had been made and another authority that had little to do except to approve what has been done by that body, also approved in writing.

On the basis of this a letter was written to the individual concerned and he replied also in writing. All these took place even before the last Constitutional Conference was held in July 1963. I think in these circumstances, hon. Members will see that the appointment

which they have all criticised from all sides of the House has not been made under the new arrangement. However, no doubt what Members have said by way of resentment of this kind of thing will surely be noted in appropriate quarters.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

#### NATIONAL HONOURS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice : I think this is a very welcome Bill as hon. Members will note. When we were debating the Constitution last September, we said that in order to implement a section of the Constitution that provides for national honours, it is necessary that a Bill be enacted to carry that provision into effect. What we have done here as you would see from my explanatory memorandum is to make three important provisions.

The first is to say that foreign national honours can no longer be conferred upon Nigerians nor can they be conferred upon those non-Nigerians who are in any of our public services throughout the Federation without the consent of the President of the Republic.

Secondly, we make it a criminal offence for people who are not entitled to it to wear insignia of all these offices. I think it is right that this sort of penalty should be provided so as to discourage people illegally claiming titles and other insignia.

The last point is in relation to honorary awards from abroad in the case of educational or professional institutions. I think this is right and there is no conflict between it and our Republican status. We have severely left alone, of course, among the dignities for which we provide the question of the creation of chieftaincies as this is entirely beyond the competence of the Federal Government and must be left to the Regional laws that govern these awards. This Bill also will be supported by a kind of subsidiary legislation which will be available to Members that want it from the Government Printer.

You will notice that in sections 1 (3) and 1 (4), reference is made to a warrant under the hands of the President by which these appointments would be made and under which the various services rendered by the recipients would be

duly accented by the President when making appointments to these offices. I do not think that there is very much more in the Bill to warrant any further explanation.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I beg to second.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : This is indeed a welcome Bill. There is, however, one point of contention in it and in my opinion the point is that this Bill still leaves provision for the conferring of foreign titles with the consent of the President of the Republic.

My quarrel with this Bill is that there should be no provision at all, with or without the consent of anybody, for any further foreign titles to be awarded in this country since the attainment of our Republican status. Very frankly, I was shocked, as indeed most of my colleagues who think like me were shocked, when I read that on the attainment of our Republican status, Nigeria still have two categories of awards ; its own national awards and the foreign awards with permission. I think this is a compromise which is unnecessary. It is uncalled for and in fact, it negates the entire principle of sovereignty.

I agree that we have had this proviso, namely, the President must give his consent, but I wonder why we should give any proviso at all. During the time when the United States of America won her independence, it must be clear to the Government and to all Members of this House that that country categorically stated in her Constitution that no citizen of the United States should receive a foreign award. If America, which is the kit and kin of the British people, could take that decision, why cannot Nigeria ? Are we more British than the British themselves ?

This is the danger with us. We do not want to be colonisers, we do not want to emancipate. We want to be more British than the British themselves. Now we do not hate the British, but we want to do things in accordance with our national sentiments. There should be no apology at all about conferring of foreign titles ; it should be clearly out of our Statute Book, President's approval or no President's approval. This is my quarrel with the provision of the Bill.

[PROFESSOR EZERA].

I know that the Minister of Finance is a C.M.G. I know also that the Prime Minister is a B.E. Without prejudice to those who already have these titles, I think that there should be no further provision for these awards in this country. Those who have had it may keep what they have, but we do not want any more of these awards with or without the President's approval.

**The Minister of Justice :** Gentlemen, I do not want to cut in at this stage, but I thought we might help the debate by clearing up one or two points. I think it is right for us to remember that the provision there is not really in favour of any particular country. It is not intended that British honours should continue to come here.

I think the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) will note that in this New Year honours list, there is not a single Nigerian name. Why we have thought it right to put the proviso was because of the kind of thing that happened to three Nigerians in Liberia only the other day. Is it really being seriously suggested that when a friendly African country like Liberia, or an African country like Niger should decide to give some kind of decorations to Nigerians, we should say that we have a law here which makes it impossible for us to allow that?

If you look at the warrant you will find that we took care over these matters. If you remember the thinking of the Government of the day and of the President of the Republic, you will know that that point will be fully taken care of. But we do not want really to bar other African States trying to do honour to some of our countrymen who may be considered worthy of those honours.

That is why we have put the proviso and the Constitution does not say that there will be two parallel sets of honours. There is only one national set of honours and the President of the Republic is the fountain of honours for Nigeria.

**Mr Odebunmi (Egba North) :** Sometimes I am embarrassed when certain Bills are introduced to the Floor of this House. This particular Bill requires very careful consideration. When we say it is necessary to get permission from the President before conferring honours on certain individuals in the

country, several issues will be involved as the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) has said.

In the first place, the countries that really want to confer certain honours on certain individuals will feel a bit embarrassed and a bit restrained to know that they have to get permission from the Nigerian Government. The country might start to ask whether permission to confer the honour would be given in respect of this particular individual. Out here in Nigeria, we are quite aware that politics are brought into everything. If this particular individual is not in the good books of the Government, what do you expect to be the reply? The Government will write back to say that the individual is not entitled to the honour, and it should not be conferred, even though that country feels that, for one reason or the other, this honour should be conferred on this particular individual.

Another point that strikes me about this Bill is this: what will happen to British titles, particularly titles like O.B.E., M.B.E., already conferred on certain Nigerians. These titles are sentimental anyway. O.B.E. means Officer of the British Empire, and M.B.E. means Member of the British Empire. A change has to be made in the meanings of these titles because the British Empire just does not exist at the moment. The Empire, which was prided as a place where the sun never sets, now has the sun already setting. It might be necessary to change the significance of these titles. This may not be our concern anyway, but something that will embrace the Commonwealth of Nations, since the old Empire has been replaced by the Commonwealth of Nations.

The third point I would like to raise concerns Nigeria's own titles. What are our national titles? What titles do we have in the Republic of Nigeria? I think that by the time we attained this Republican status, the Government ought to have thought it wise to list the titles which could be conferred by the Republic of Nigeria. At present, we know only of titles like M.P., J.P., but we want the ordinary man-in-the-street to be familiar with what titles are really set aside by the Republic of Nigeria, and what are the conditions that could make one to be able to attain such titles. This is a Bill that requires very serious consideration.

I beg to support.

**Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central) :** This is a Bill which we all anticipate. Having attained the Republican status, it is to be expected that Nigeria will limit all foreign awards. It is not our intention to bar friendly nations from doing honour to whom honour is due, but such foreign awards must be strictly limited.

It should be a condition that if any friendly nation of the world is going to award its own honour to a Nigerian citizen, that nation must also be prepared to accept our own national honours. I think that such should be a condition under which we can allow any foreign countries to award honours to our own citizens. It is not sufficient to say that it must only be with the consent of the President; there should be the other condition that before our citizens accept foreign honours, those foreign countries must be prepared to accept our own national honours.

I beg to support.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South) :** I rise to associate myself with what the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) has said. I had thought that this law should have been retrospective in effect. By that I mean that even those who had already had these foreign honours should forgo them. It was Saint Paul of the Bible who said that when he was a child he acted like a child, but that when he became a man he put away childish things. When we were under the colonial regime, it was well and good that whatever titles were conferred on any of us (either because we were obedient boys or because we played to their whims and caprices) should be accepted then. But, at least, we must learn a lesson from Saint Paul's sayings in the Bible. We are now a free people and anything that will directly or indirectly detract from our freedom should be done away with.

It was announced yesterday that Liberia conferred honours on three of our able citizens, and in this Bill we are being told that the purpose is by no means to bar our nationalists from receiving any award or title from any African State. If this is so, one is then forced to ask what honour is Nigeria going to offer to reciprocate citizens of those friendly countries?

What have we?

**The Minister of Finance :** We have something to offer.

**Mr Ekanem :** If the Government are having something to offer, they should bring it out for people to see.

**An hon. Member :** The Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*) should realise that he is now in the Government Bench.

**Mr Ekanem :** Where I am in this House does not matter, and, in any case, I am even in a better position because I am now with the Government.

All I am saying is that we should reciprocate our givers by conferring our own national honours to citizens of other foreign countries.

I beg to support.

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** There is just one point that I wish to raise and that is, more or less, a question to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. I would like to know what the Minister means by an honour from a foreign country, because speaking for myself, what happened yesterday in Liberia to Sir Ahmadu Bello was not the kind of honour for which this Bill is out to provide. The honour given to Sir Ahmadu Bello was in recognition of the country on whose behalf he came to Liberia. They gave him that to honour Nigeria, and there was no necessity for him to come back home to get the consent of the President before receiving it.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice :** On a point of information, the hon. Gentleman speaking may be interested to know that this matter was debated by a national body set up by the Prime Minister. It studied this matter and reported to him before this provision was put into the Constitution. The arrangement we came to was that before the Sardauna of Sokoto left Nigeria he had his approval in his pocket. And so did Mr Benson and Mr Johnson. That is the condition laid down in the Constitution.

**Chief D. N. Abii :** The Minister's explanation shows exactly that my question was in Order. We did not know this before they left. Parliament should have been told. If the

[CHIEF ABII]

Government is going to give any honour from Nigeria to somebody in other countries, this Parliament ought to know about it.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice :** On a point of information, if the Member for Owerri East (*Mr D. N. Abii*) will look at section 75 of the Constitution, he will find it laid down that you cannot go abroad and receive an honour without the consent of the Government. So any reasonable person going abroad and thinking that he is likely to be conferred with an honour will obtain the necessary approval before leaving this country. That is in the Constitution.

**Chief D. N. Abii :** I am happy with the Minister, but I still maintain that an honour received in the name of Nigeria is a property of the country. It is not the property of the President or that of his Ministers. The Parliament ought to know what kind of title we can give out from Nigeria.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think that this debate should go so far. Will the hon. Gentleman speaking please confine himself to the subject of the Bill.

**Chief Abii :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think I have made my point. However, I have another point to make. I would like to say that these honours which we now refuse and which we say should no longer be conferred upon our citizens were given out not on personal merits, but because the imperialists then liked a particular person and they gave him whatever he wanted. To-day we find that the honours are useless—useless to the recipients and useless to all of us. May we humbly express, through this House, to the President that none of these honours should come to us again. We do not want them.

**Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East) :** On a point of order, I want to say that the hon. Gentleman speaking who is a Chief Whip of the N.C.N.C. is expressing his own personal view, not that of the House or of the Government. Personally, I have never received any foreign honour, but to say that the honours given to our people are useless is being very, very ungrateful.

**Mr Speaker :** Surely the Member for Lowland East (*Mr S. D. Lar*) knows very well that this is not a point of order.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) :** In supporting this Bill I have to say that we are not quarrelling with the honours or titles awarded to able Nigerians by some of the African countries; but we are definitely against any foreign honour from our former colonial masters because such honours are regarded by the progressive elements in this country as another system of trying to undermine the sovereignty of this country.

I must be frank to say that in colonial days we regarded those who received these honours as traitors to the cause of our fatherland and would say that before any honour is awarded or before any person to whom the honour is going to be conferred gives his consent, these honours should be approved by the President.

Why I say this is that some individuals may be regarded here at home as subversive elements who could overthrow the government and there may be some African countries that may also wish to award honours to these subversive elements to encourage them to carry on their subversive activities in Nigeria. Such honours should be prevented, and in this respect, I agree with the provisions made in the Bill.

Coming to the award of Nigerian honours and titles, I think it is high time that the Federal Government recognised those who fought for the freedom of this country. There are some young elements who fought for the freedom of Nigeria, and who, to-day are relegated to the background in Nigerian politics. These are the people who should receive an award of honour of our national titles and not those who opposed the independence of our country.

For instance, in Nigeria we have people like Mokgwu Okoye, Raji Abdallah, Osita Agwuna, Tony Enahoro who is now in prison, and others. These are some of the young men who identified themselves with the struggle for our freedom; they were jailed by the British Government because they wanted to overthrow the regime of the British colonial rule. Should we not compensate them at this time? There are many others like them.

I am therefore appealing to the Federal Government to compensate these young men who were baptised in those days in the colonial prisons. Let us honour them and show our appreciation of what they did.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr R. B. K. Okafor) :** In supporting this people's Bill I want to thank my able Minister for introducing this Bill. The question of foreign honours in my own personal opinion is a matter of such significance that when hon. Members of Parliament begin to discuss them must appreciate one thing, and that is that foreign honours played a very, very vital part in the struggle for our independence. I know, and perhaps few hon. Members know as well, that those who were given most of these foreign honours did everything possible for them to make it impossible for us to rule ourselves to-day. Most of these things should be recalled and I want it to be recorded here on the Floor of this House that the government is taking the right step.

As the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr F. I. Okoronkwo*) has put it, now that we are on our own—we have attained manhood—there is no reason why those who actually struggled to make it possible for us to be here to talk and to rule the country should not be honoured. At least they should be remembered for the parts they played in bringing independence to this country. A man like *Omimi Ejo* should be given one.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South) :** On a point of order, by the reasoning of the hon. Member speaking, I wish to say that the Minister of Finance (*Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh*) was one of those who impeded the speed with which we got to independence because he accepted a foreign honour—C.M.G. So, he is not entitled to a Nigerian honour.

**Mr Okafor :** I think the Speaker of this House has done a magnificent job and when we have our own honours he should be given one. As a matter of fact a man, who has been responsible for bringing into this House, progressive Bills, couched in beautiful legal language, like the hon. the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should also be honoured. And immediately my Minister has one, the next person to have a national honour is myself. (*Laughter*).

Another point is that we should discuss foreign honours *vis-a-vis* local chieftaincy titles.

**Minister of State (Alhaji the hon. Hashimu Adaji) :** On a point of order, Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice did not mention my name and I do not know why.

**Mr Okafor :** During the struggle for independence I did not see this man! (*Laughter*).

I was talking of chieftaincy titles *vis-a-vis* foreign honours. I think that the time will come when the Federal Government will have to review the rate with which people like the Member for Egba East (*Chief Ayo Rosiji*) run down to Abeokuta to begin to gather chieftaincy titles of one type or the other.

With these few remarks I support the Bill.

*Whereupon the Minister of Mines and Power 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.*

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

NATIONAL HONOURS BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(POWER TO PROVIDE BY WARRANT FOR AWARD OF HONOURS).*

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi) :** I would only like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that if this country awards nationals of other foreign countries our national honours we should at the same time in recognition of services rendered by nationals of other countries accept foreign awards without any discrimination. After all, what is our foreign policy? It is unfortunate that we have, on this particular occasion, to recall certain unhappy incidents which simply because we happened to be a British Colony we had experienced before becoming independent. There are, however, two sides to the story. The British did a good job in bringing Nigeria to her present standard even though at the same time there are certain unpleasant things which we still remember. But we should also remember that two wrongs cannot make one right.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : Mr Chairman, I seek your permission to refer to Clause 1, subsection (4) which states :—

“(4) The power to make awards in pursuance of a warrant under this section shall be exercisable by the President in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of section seventy-five of the Constitution of the Federation (which provide for awards to be made on the advice of the Premier of a Region in respect of services to the Region and on the advice of the Prime Minister in other cases).”

Well, constitutional rulers are known to be fountains of honour, but it would appear that the tendency now is to make our constitutional rulers, like the President of the Federation effeminate, by emasculating them. Why should we not expect the President of the Federation to know who should be entitled to awards of honours, decorations, and other dignities for services rendered to this country.

I think it is too much of a curtailment of the prerogatives which constitutional rulers enjoy to ask the President to rely on the advice of either the Prime Minister or the Premier of a Region. There is another danger and it is that President cannot exercise this power except on the advice of a political head who is either the Premier of a Region or the Prime Minister. The tendency is there for a Premier or the Prime Minister to recommend members of his own political party, or his own stooges, or his minions for decorations, dignities, and honours.

It would be inconceivable to expect a Premier who is at daggers drawn with the Leader of the Opposition, for instance in the Western Region, no matter what effort the Leader of the Opposition has put in the struggle for the independence of this country—to recommend him to the President for decoration, or honour, or dignity. I think this is an awkward thing. We expect our President not to be a politician in one word. We expect him to steer clear of politics, and the work of awarding honours, decorations, and dignities to deserving citizens of Nigeria, should be his sole prerogative.

There is another point and it has to do with diplomacy. We have attained maturity or nationhood, and as such it is expedient for us to encourage non-citizens of this country by awarding honours to them, and that is by

empowering the President to give honours to people who are not citizens of this country. We find that they deserve such honours. Such honours may be honorary such as have been given to our own leaders here.

The Prime Minister was honoured when he went to Guinea last time, and, I think, quite recently, as we were told by the hon. Attorney-General, eminent citizens of this country who had been to Liberia were given honours. They had the approval in their pockets before the honours were conferred upon them.

I think we should give the President of this country the power to bestow honours which have nothing to do with politics. It should be only when he overlooks the interest of the Prime Minister or the Premier by giving honours and decorations to people he knows would run down the Government that he should be called to question. I think this is a discretion which should be vested in the President.

I observe that in connection with this subsection under Clause 3 (2) it is stated that the Act shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of October, 1963. This shows that these honours are already piled up in some packets somewhere and will be distributed with retrospective effect. I would not be surprised if the highest honours go to the Minister of Finance, because he published his speeches yesterday and distributed them to us, whereas it is well known that the generality of the people of this country do not consider his services deserving of honours.

Anyway, as we usually say on the Floor of this House, we have a Prime Minister in whom many people have confidence, and who, many people think, would be fair and just.

**An hon. Member** : Is the hon. Member showering praises, too ?

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I do not belong to the Prime Minister's party, and I am not obliged to praise him. It is a fact which is well known that he can be trusted upon to be fair, but what of rabid politicians like the hon. Minister of Finance and one or two others like the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*)—

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of information Mr Chairman—

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I do not yield !

**The Minister of Finance** : The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) would yield if he is fair !

**Chief Akin-Olugbade** : I think I have made my points that there may be honours already in some packets which would be distributed. They should not forget those of us who were bold enough to look straight into the face of the imperialist when he was the strongest in this country.

**The Minister of Finance** : The Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has just said that there are rabid politicians, including myself, in this country ; if by his interpretation, he would accept that because I am opposed to the proposed alliance between the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group then I would say yes, I am a rabid politician, and I will be opposed to the alliance till tomorrow.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** (Dr the hon. T. O. Elias) : May I reply briefly to what the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) has just said. There are three points, and the first point concerns the position of the President in this arrangement.

We took care to study the precedents in the British Isles and in other places like America, and in fact, it is our information that honours and awards are usually awarded on the advice of the Government in power. There is no precedent where the power is given to the Head of State to do as he pleases with. Even the Queen is advised by her Cabinet.

The second point concerns the issue of whether foreigners should be given Nigerian honours. I can assure the Member for Egba South (*Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade*) that when he sees the warrant under which the President will make his awards, he will find that his points have been taken care of, and we can confer honours on foreigners just as we receive from them.

His third and final point concerns the main issue that he raised about the honours having been piled up together somewhere to be distributed later. In my own view, I think there is no such intention on the part of the Government at the moment.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema) : But the hon. Member is not the Prime Minister ; he is just the Attorney-General and no more !

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** : But having drafted the Bill, I should know why we put it there and it is for information that I am saying this. I am not speaking for the Prime Minister as to the administration of his Government. But as regards this Clause, why we put that particular provision is that there have been five honours already awarded under the Constitution. These must be validated by this retrospective provision and we made it clear that honours will be awarded only once in a year, usually on Republic Day so that there will be no question of the whole thing being piled up somewhere.

*Clause 1—(POWER TO PROVIDE BY WARRANT FOR AWARD OF HONOURS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 2 and 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE).*

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : It is natural that whatever we do in this House should be recorded at least in the *Hansard*, and as such I know that this Bill will appear in the *Hansard*. So also is the debate on the awards to be given to those who served this country before independence.

I have no quarrel whatever with the suggestions made by other Members but at the same time, I want to put it on record that it is not only those who had the means of publicising themselves and their activities at that time who contributed to the independence of this country. It is difficult to mention all those who served this country silently and all those who contributed to make this country what it is to-day. (*Interruption*). If I am not correct, I am open to correction.

Every Member of this House is quite aware, that there are numerous people who contributed towards Nigerian independence, but who had no opportunity of publicising themselves either in the Newspapers or on the radio and who had no connection whatsoever with those politicians who were then in the field.

For that reason, I would like to suggest that whatever criticisms we have against foreign honours, there is one precedent that has been

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established and this should be followed in future. Wherever members of the community are, they should not be forgotten if they had contributed towards our independence. Whether they are in the cities or in the rural areas, they should not be forgotten in the award of honours. This precedent should not be ignored in the future.

I would like those who handle our national awards to copy at least this precedent because those who served well in the past, in whatever capacity should not be forgotten.

I beg to support.

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah** (Owerri North): This Bill has been sufficiently discussed, but I merely want to emphasise one point and that is, having attained the status of a republic, there will be no point in trying to suggest to the President, or in making provision allowing conferment of any type of foreign honours on our nationals except, of course, one type of foreign honours—those from African States. We must be very clear on this matter. There is no question of advising the President to accept any honours from Britain. (*Interruption*).

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): On a point of order! The point of order is the irrelevancy of the debate. Hon. Members are mature enough to know that during the Third Reading of a Bill, speeches should be directed to the more technical points and not the merits or the demerits of the Bill. That ought to have been done during the Second Reading of the Bill.

**Mr Speaker**: I quite agree with the hon. Minister of Finance. I think at the Third Reading, Members should not discuss details which should have been discussed at the Second Reading stage.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East): May we have the ruling of the Chair on what the Minister of Finance has just said? The Minister was defining the scope of the debate as pertaining merely to technicalities. I am not quite sure that is right.

**Mr Speaker**: This matter seems to be an affair between two experts on Standing Orders. Personally, I feel it is time to put the Question.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

## ELECTORAL BILL.

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act of 1962 be now read a second time.

During the debate on the Electoral Bill of 1962, Members expressed very strong views about some of the provisions of the Bill. Since my colleagues and I are always willing to give serious consideration to reasonable and constructive suggestions, Government has given very careful thought to the views then expressed in this House. The debate on the Bill ranged over the question of the deposit payable by candidates, election expenses, the use of thugs, the delays in dealing with election petitions, voting by proxy, printing of ballot papers, withdrawal of candidates and a number of other matters. The subject of elections touches all Members closely, I therefore crave your permission to dwell at some length on the points listed.

Section 8 of the 1962 Act requires that a deposit of £10 should be paid before an objection is lodged to the inclusion of a name in the list of voters. This provision was inserted in the Act in order to discourage frivolous objection of the type with which we have sometimes been plagued, but it gave rise in turn to the danger that persons wishing to lodge objections in good faith might be afraid to do so for fear of losing money which they could not afford. During the debate on the 1962 Act, Members suggested as an alternative that the amount of deposit should be reduced. It seems to me that if the deposit were reduced sufficiently not to discourage genuine objections, it would no longer constitute a deterrent to frivolous ones. It is therefore proposed that deposits should no longer be required before the lodging of an objection.

Section 20 of the 1962 Act provides that every Member should, before his nomination paper is delivered to the Electoral Officer, pay a deposit of £25. Members considered that this sum should be substantially increased to discourage frivolous nominations. Government is in complete agreement with this view and the Bill before you provides for the deposit to be raised to £100.

During the debate on the 1962 Act, Members on both sides of this House stressed the need to control election expenses. When my predecessor in office spoke in reply to points made about this matter, he pointed out the difficulty which would arise in working out a satisfactory basis for calculating maximum expenditure in Nigeria in view of the great diversity of conditions in the Federation and the fact that the actual enforcement of any control would be very difficult to achieve. I share my predecessor's view on this question. Like him, my view is that much more important than the control of legitimate expenditure incurred by candidates on such matters as the hire of halls and the printing of leaflets, is the prevention of illegal expenditure on the treating of electors. Whereas the 1959 regulations had made treating only for the very limited period between the dissolution of Parliament and the return of the writs, for the greater part of the year, it would be quite in order for candidates to treat voters for the purpose of influencing their votes, providing that such treating ceased when Parliament was dissolved, which would normally happen only a few weeks before Polling Day. It is considered that Section 60 of the 1962 Act should be amended so that treating should become an offence, whenever it is committed.

**An. hon. Member**: Is it throughout the five years?

**The Minister of Internal Affairs**: It is throughout the year. In my opinion, this would go much further towards limiting and eventually eliminating corruption from elections than the mere fixing of an upper limit of legitimate expenditure.

**An. hon. Member**: What type of corruption?

**The Minister of Internal Affairs**: Corruption is corruption, no matter whatever form it takes.

With regard to the use of thugs during election campaigns, Members expressed the view that provision should be made in the Act to prevent people employing thugs. The existing laws of the land contain adequate provisions for dealing with thugs since there are prohibitions on the carrying of offensive weapons at political meetings. No additional provision has therefore been proposed in the Bill before Members.

Some Members suggested that *ad hoc* courts should be set up to hear cases appertaining to election petitions. In Government's view, this is unnecessary since the law already provides that such petitions should take priority over other matters. Some other Members wanted provision to be made for voting by proxy. I fear that this system would lend itself too easily to fraud and would be unsuitable in the Republic of Nigeria at present.

The suggestion was also made by Members that ballot papers used in the various constituencies should contain some identification mark in respect of each constituency so that ballot papers could not be removed from one constituency to another. I do not consider that this matter need to be dealt with by law since the Electoral Commission has adequate powers to prescribe the design of ballot papers and did in fact arrange for the name of each constituency to appear on each ballot paper during the last Federal Elections.

Members further considered that the provision of the Electoral Act which disallows the withdrawal of nominations after closing dates have passed, should be deleted. This suggestion is acceptable to Government, provided such withdrawal takes place not later than seven days after nominations have closed. The Act has therefore been suitably amended.

Finally, it has been necessary to amend the Act in order to delete the provision which requires that the records of the 1962 Census of population should be used in compiling the list of voters and to provide instead that the records of the 1963 Census should be used. I need not dilate on this point.

Electoral laws have political significance for all political parties and as such, they always evoke interest from all sides of the House. This is healthy and proper, but since these provisions have previously been debated in this House, I hope Members would find no difficulty in accepting them.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to second.

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgba): After listening to the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs on this Bill, I would like to condemn the Bill as presented to the House in this context. The



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Bill is very unprogressive, it is retrogressive, obnoxious, oppressive and immoral. I dare say that the Bill is aimed primarily at rigging the elections and thus keeping in power a group of persons who under normally and fairly conducted elections would be defeated outright.

This Bill which is meant for the first Independence Federal Elections, should be more progressive and revolutionary in nature because upon the conduct of the next Federal elections depends, to a large extent, the way people abroad will judge this country and its democratic outlook, and upon it depends entirely the future of democracy in Africa. This is because Nigeria is an important country in Africa.

I wish, therefore, to spotlight the following anomalies in this very important Bill as well as other relevant irregularities.

I think it will be right to praise the wisdom of those who decided on the inter-Regional exchange of census inspectors. The inspectors did a lot of useful work in all the Regions, and if the results of the present census are successful, then a great deal of credit goes to the good sense of duty of those inspectors. Unfortunately, however, in certain areas, particularly in the Northern Region, or in parts of the Northern Region, some enumerators deliberately refused to issue registration cards to eligible voters or, in some cases, to people above 21 for reasons connected with party politics. In other cases, the enumerators deliberately altered the numbers of the registration cards so that on polling day such voters would be diverted to other polling stations and would, therefore, be unable to vote in their particular registration centres. (Interruptions). I appeal to you, Mr Speaker, for protection from this mob.

All these are in direct contradiction to the principle of democracy and fairplay and a direct disobedience of the appeal issued on the eve of the census by the Prime Minister. An example of this sort of anomaly could be found in Wukari Division of Benue Province where I in particular could not go to explain the census implications to the people—

**The Minister of Finance :** On a point of order, quite frankly I do not know whether this is strictly relevant because I think that we must speak the truth. A Census has been conducted and the census figures have not been released. (Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. We have to hear points of order one at a time.

**The Minister of Finance :** The point of order I am making, I have stated, is on the ground of irrelevancy, and I say that the census, if it may be mentioned at all, could be a brief reference, but to go into the details of a census, the figures of which have not been released, is irrelevant.

**An hon. Member :** Is the Minister of Finance the Speaker?

**The Minister of Finance :** I am not the Speaker, but I have the right to speak on the Floor of this House because my brain is not that of the grasshopper like yours.

What I am saying is that I think my hon. Friend the Member for Jemgba (Mr Tarka) has a right to speak of the census generally, but I do not think he has the right to go into the details about his own constituency on the census matter when the census figures have not been released. I think it is improper. (Interruptions).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I think it is correct that details should not be discussed until the Committee Stage is reached, and, secondly, the census discussion is a wider field than the Electoral Law Amendment.

**Mr Tarka :** I do not intend to challenge the Speaker's ruling at all, but I wish to say that Clause I of the Bill refers specifically to the conduct of census. An example of this sort of anomaly could be found in Wukari Division where I in particular could not go to explain the census implications to the people because the U.M.B.C. is barred in Wukari Division by the N.A., with the connivance of the Benue Provincial Commissioner—an interested person.

Secondly, I come to the question of fielding of candidates. Elsewhere in this Bill, it is provided that a candidate could withdraw his candidature. I wish to condemn vehemently this provision as a very shap practice aimed at conniving at and condoning arbitrary and corrupt practices at elections.

I come to the earnings of Members of Parliament. It is very well-known that most of the Members of Parliament in this House could not earn more than £360 per annum before they were elected into this House, and

are now earning more than £1,000 for doing no work at all. Secondly, the masses of the people of this country make at elections what they cannot get at normal times. Consequently, some people with deliberate sinister intentions seek particular objections. When nominations close they fail to oppose the parties and the next thing one hears of is the returning unopposed of such candidates. Thirdly, at election time one hears of a general wave of kidnapping or mysterious disappearance of party candidates who later are purported to have withdrawn their candidature.

If an M.P. on £1,000 per annum could sell himself here on the Floor of the House for £300, what stops an ordinary man from selling out his candidature for £200? The main reason is that most of these candidates do not pay their own nomination fees. Thus, a party with £624,000 could buy all the seats in the country, all except my own. I think that this House will wisely reject this aspect of the Bill in order to protect and further promote parliamentary democracy and its practice.

This Bill also provides for the increase of election deposits from £25 to £100. It is unfortunate that this obnoxious device started from the Eastern Region of all places. Everybody knows the purpose of this increase. It is meant purely to stop opposition parties from fielding candidates. It is also meant to make Parliament a place of privilege where only the rich feudalists or their children alone can sit. This Parliament plus most of the Members looks like a House of Chiefs, and I invite you, Mr Speaker, to look round!

Fortunately, the Prime Minister is a poor man from the non-ruling class of Nigeria. I am sure that personally, but not on his party lines, he has the interest of the common man at heart. This aspect of the Bill is as unacceptable as it is deliberately mischievous and should, therefore, be rejected.

While I do not condone treating as a means of winning elections, I think that treating as such has a very wide meaning within the African concept of the term. Furthermore, if a man left Kaduna with, say, £500,000 and 100 trucks of well-decorated garment with N.P.C. emblem on the back and took them to Gboko to distribute to the people there so as to win their support, say, in 1960 or after

1960, such a person could be guilty of treating, but since the law in Nigeria is a respecter of certain persons, he would not be prosecuted. On the other hand, an ordinary man who buys beer for his own supporters, say, at Isale Eko would be prosecuted immediately for treating because he does not belong to the party in power.

I think I have pointed out enough of the several anomalies in this Bill, and I now go to make briefly the following suggestions for the careful consideration of, and acceptance by, this House.

(1) Government should not delegate power of maintenance of law and order to N.A.'s and Local Government bodies at election times. Instead, such powers should be invested only in the Nigeria Police since they are subject to abuse.

(2) The issuing of permits for public meetings during Federal and Regional elections should be handled by the Nigeria Police only, since Local Government Police and such other Local Government officials as do handle the issue of permits are interested persons and could put deliberate impediments in the way of opposing parties.

(3) The ban of public meetings in the West, Lagos and parts of the North should be lifted to make for freedom of assembly, freedom of campaigns and, consequently, free and fair elections.

(4) A candidate should have had many years to make up his mind and should, therefore, not be allowed to withdraw his or her candidature since this could make room for corrupt practices.

(5) The term "treating at election times" should be more clearly defined and the time limit prohibited.

(6) Election deposits should remain at £25 to allow commoners to be elected to Parliament. All chiefs and others of their type should go to the Regional Houses of Chiefs or the Senate.

(7) Arrangements should be made to issue cards to all qualified persons who were not issued with registration cards.

(8) That an All-Party Conference be convened by the Prime Minister to discuss various aspects of this election.

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(9) That there should be an inter-Regional exchange of electoral officers, particularly presiding and returning officers, since this will make for peace and fairplay on the elections.

(10) Finally, and most important of all, women in Northern Nigeria should be enfranchised so that they too could take part as of right under the Constitution to elect and be elected.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose the Bill as amended.

Mr S. D. Lar (Lowland East): I rise to welcome this Bill; in doing so, I would like to congratulate the Federal Government on their democratic way of listening to the public views. As the Minister of Internal Affairs has already said, that when we started to debate the draft of this Electoral Bill there were some objections from Members of this House, especially on the deposit paid by Members before they raise any objections on the preliminary list, I think we should congratulate the Federal Government on the abolition of that particular section. Also, I think we should congratulate the Federal Government on the increase of the deposit paid by candidates before they can contest Federal elections. I think, however, that the £100 is not sufficient. To me, we should raise it up to £200 or £300.

Several hon. Members: Why?

Mr Lar: I have my reasons—

Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade (Egba South): The Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) has never saved up to five pounds (£5) in his life. The Action Group paid his electoral deposit in the 1959 elections.

The Minister of Finance: Just for the purpose of information, hon. Members will recall that when the Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) was speaking he criticised the idea of people paying electoral deposits for people. Then, one would have thought that he did not include the Action Group. But his cat is out of the bag now. Chief Akin-Olugbade has just said that the Action Group paid *Mr Lar's* election deposit during the 1959 general elections!

Mr Tarka: My speech was directed towards the next elections and not the 1959 elections.

Mr Lar: I think we should let by-gones be by-gones. In fact, if we begin to reveal what actually took place during the Federal Elections in 1959, perhaps the elections should have been nullified due to the actions of some people.

I have my reasons when I said that the deposit for candidature should be increased. It will be better if constituencies are allowed to nominate their own candidates. If we leave this amount at £25 as it was before, well we shall find out that some people who do not even want to contest elections will be sponsored by certain political parties. If they feel that the deposit is very high, such political parties will be afraid of losing their own money, so that the increase will enable the right type of people to contest the elections.

I am sure, if the deposit were to be increased during the 1959 elections, perhaps many N.P.C. supporters would have been returned unopposed in Northern Nigeria. It was because the deposit was too low that the Action Group said that if they lost £25 on each candidate, it would not mean anything to them. So they even put up a candidate in an area where they knew that they had no supporters at all, and in most cases they only polled about 58 to 100 votes.

The Member for Jemgba (*Mr Tarka*) made mention of women enfranchisement in the North. The only mistake that people make is this—they say that if women in the North were allowed to vote they might be able to come into power. I am telling them that they are making a great mistake. We of the N.P.C. have more women than any other group of people in the North and our women have complete support for us. If we were to allow women the right to vote, that will mean even more votes for us. I want the Member for Jemgba to know that when we do not allow women to vote in the North, it is not that we are afraid of losing our position. That is not the question at all.

Before I take my seat, I want to clear this position. I often hear it, and even now my learned and hon. Friend, *Mr Tarka* has—

An hon. Member: He is not learned. He is not a lawyer.

Mr Lar: Well, to me he is learned. He has been saying it and I have been hearing it

that those of us who were in the Action Group camp and now in the N.P.C. will never come back to this House in 1964. Well, I challenge him to come to my constituency to see things for himself. It is even a common knowledge that the Member for Jemgba (*Mr J. S. Tarka*) is losing grounds in the Benue Province where—

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgba): On a point of order, I campaigned for the Member for Lowland East (*Mr S. D. Lar*) and I got him elected into this House and I am going to unmake him.

Mr Lar: The Member for Jemgba (*Mr J. S. Tarka*) has never been to my Constituency to campaign for me. He does not know my people; his activities are only confined to Benue Province and that is all.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban): On a point of order, the Member for Lowland East (*Mr S. D. Lar*) is wandering about and it is time we should not listen to this political bat.

Mr Lar: I am not surprised to hear that from a member of the N.C.N.C. because the N.C.N.C. people want Members who cross the carpet to come over to their side. We shall never go to the N.C.N.C. because— (*Interruptions*)

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): May I appeal to the Chairman. The debate is changing into a debate of the principles of carpet crossing.

Mr Lar: That is also from another member of the N.C.N.C.; therefore, I will not take him serious. I have already said that they want Members from this side to come to their side and we shall never go there because we know—

Several hon. Members: Where are you going?

Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East): Under Standing Order 25, the Member for Lowland East (*Mr S. D. Lar*) is irrelevant. May I tell him through you Mr Speaker that the N.C.N.C. is not clamouring for him because the party cannot pay for him.

Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema): On a point of order, a very serious allegation has been made in this House. I am sure that the House

and the Government are opposed to slave dealing. If the Member for Owerri East (*Chief D. N. Abii*) means that slaves are being bought and sold in this House, he should say so definitely and let us know how much they were bought—(*Interruptions*).

Minister of State (Alhaji the hon. Hashimu Adaji): If it is true that Members are being bought in this House, the N.C.N.C. member should tell us for how much they bought the Member for Ibadan South East (*Mr Akinjide*) and his group because they were the first carpet crossers in this House.

Mr Speaker: Order. I have given enough latitude for Members to make contributions but it seems that Members are not interested in making any contribution.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

#### ELECTORAL BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(ALTERATION OF REFERENCE TO DATE OF CENSUS, ETC.)

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): All I want to say under this Clause is that since the November Census will be used for the next election, may we have the result announced as quickly as possible so as to avoid any back-room manipulations.

Mr I. S. Onwuchekwa (Ahoada Central): What agitates my mind about Clause 1 is that it merely provides for the records of the November 1963 Census to be used in compiling the preliminary list of electors under the Act. But the Bill is silent on the natural sequence of this Clause or the corollary, that is, the real Delimitation of Constituencies. That point may be taken for granted, but I stand to be corrected. As things are, nothing stops us from passing this Bill and the constituencies will remain the same. But if we are going to use the electoral census figures, the constituencies should be redelimited. Every Member knows that the numerical strength of some of these constituencies has increased and that of others has decreased. This Bill is silent on this fact and I personally would wish that this natural sequence be included in the very Bill.

Clause 1—(ALTERATION OF REFERENCE TO DATE OF ALLEGATION, ETC.,)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

**Clause 2—(ABOLITION OF DEPOSIT PAYABLE ON LODGING OF OBJECTION).**

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): I would like to say that the increase from £25 to £100 is too much.

**The Chairman**: Order. The Member for Ikot Ekpene South (*Mr M. B. Afanideh*) is speaking on Clause 3 and we are now on Clause 2.

**Rev. J. A. Akinyemi** (Ilesha Rural): Clause 2 provides for the abolition of deposit payable on lodging of objection. When the Minister of Internal Affairs was introducing the Bill, he said the House clamoured in 1962 for a reduction of the deposit to be paid and not for a total abolition of it.

This abolition of deposit will make a nonsense of objections to names on the list. It will mean that anybody can get up to raise an objection to certain names on the list and that will make the work very cumbersome and will also create a lot of confusion. If there is going to be a reduction, it should be from £10 to £5. But to abolish it completely will make a nonsense of it. I would only urge that the amount should be reduced to £5 and not abolished.

**Clause 2—(ABOLITION OF DEPOSIT PAYABLE ON LODGING OF OBJECTION)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.**

**Clause 3—(INCREASE OF DEPOSIT PAYABLE BEFORE NOMINATION).**

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): I have filed an Amendment to this Clause 3. Quite frankly, after listening to the statement made by the Minister and bearing in mind what happened in this House yesterday, I feel that the higher this figure is, the better it will be because it will keep out men, who are friends of the Member for Jemgbar (*Mr J. S. Tarka*), I do not therefore, intend to move the Amendment which I filed. I am convinced that this Clause seeks to tighten up this question of the conditions under which Members who wish to contest elections might pay the election deposit.

One addition which I think should have been made to this Clause by the hon. Minister and the hon. Attorney-General is the legislation against carpet crossing whereby once a person has been voted in under the platform of any political party such a person cannot cross to another party. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): On a point of order—

**Mr Ogunsanya**: What Order?

**Several hon. Members**: What Order? What Order?

**The Chairman**: Order, order! I would like to know what Order the Member for Lowland East (*Mr Lar*) is referring to.

**Mr Lar**: The Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) is irrelevant. This Clause is not talking about carpet crossing. It is common knowledge that the Action Group and the N.C.N.C. are preparing to work together.

**The Chairman**: I think that carpet crossing has very little to do with Clause 3 which deals with increase of deposit payable before nomination.

**Mr Ogunsanya**: The way the Chairman addressed me made me feel as if I was in the Law Court. I must apologise. I was merely trying to exercise my right. When I filed this amendment to Clause 3 I had in mind that certain additions should have been made to the Amendment. Although I am not pressing the point on but I think I am entitled to say what the Amendment envisaged. And I wish to say that it will be in the best interest of this great country if it is specifically enacted that the moment a man enters the Parliament on the ticket of a political party, if he crosses to another party, he forfeits his Membership. I know that this must be intolerable to some Members of this House who are in the regular trade of being one day Action Group, another day N.C.N.C. and yet still, another day N.P.C. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr M. B. Afanideh** (Ikot Ekpene South): On a point of order—

**The Chairman**: Order, order! I would expect that when a Member raises a point of order it should be on a very strong point, or a point which should have been noticed by the Committee but was not noticed. But, minor breaches which I am capable of dealing with should be left to me.

**Mr Ogunsanya**: In view of what I have said, it is quite necessary that this Clause should remain as it is now rather than the way I intended to amend it.

This is an election year and I know the fever that is awaiting some carpet crossers. Since morning the N.C.N.C. has been attacked by many people including, even the Minister of State, Alhaji the hon. Adaji. Any one who wants to attack the N.C.N.C. should come outside and do so and we of the N.C.N.C. will answer such a person. The Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarikin Bai*) has been mistaking me for the hon. Jaja Wachuku. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman**: Really, if the Member for Ikeja (*Mr Ogunsanya*) wants to make a speech he should stop provoking one side or the other. Otherwise it will be very difficult for him to make his speech. Provoking speeches, as hon. Members know, impedes the progress of the House.

**Clause 3—(INCREASE OF DEPOSIT PAYABLE BEFORE NOMINATION)—order to stand part of the Bill.**

**Clause 4—(WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATES).**

**Alhaji Baba Dambappa** (Minjibir): I would like to comment on this Clause 4—Withdrawal of candidates.

**An hon. Member**: It does not deal with international trade.

**Alhaji Dambappa**: No. I know. I remember what happened during the last federal elections and I am going to relate my experience to the House so that the same thing may not happen this time.

The withdrawal of a candidate by giving only a week's notice, leaves room for people who are not qualified to contest an election to start a row. And if people are allowed to withdraw their candidature by giving only a week's notice, it will give the wrong people a chance to register as candidates and campaign against the proper candidate only to withdraw at the last moment because they know that they can still get their money back. The Government ought to take notice of this point and rule that if anybody withdraws his candidature at a week's notice, such a person should forfeit his deposit.

The Government should take notice of this and then there will not be chance for any person who is not serious to pretend to want to stand for an election.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to support this Clause 4 of this Bill. If people would like to withdraw it would be better for them to do so before the date of the election. That, in my view is better than getting into the Legislature and moving round about. But I would like to say this, that I am not at this juncture trying to condemn any carpet crosser because before parliamentary government started in this country, carpet crossing was foreign to all of us and I think that for purposes of correct record of carpet crossing in Nigeria, it will be better for me as one of the people who knew about the history of it, to put it on record at least for the education of the people on that side of the House, who do not know the history of carpet crossing in Nigeria. When the first election was held—

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): On a point of order, the hon. Member is being very irrelevant. We are talking about withdrawal of deposits and not carpet crossing.

**The Minister of Finance**: All I am saying is that people who used carpet crossing to come to power in 1952 in the Western Region, should not come here and condemn others for doing exactly the same thing.

The N.C.N.C. won the elections in the Western Region in 1951 and would have been in power. But in 1952, the Action Group used carpet crossing to get into power and passed a lot of legislation, and now the members of that party have the audacity to come here and condemn others. At that time, the leader of the Action Group brought a camera and took photographs of carpet crossers and exhibited them in the press.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte** (Ibarapa): On a point of order, the Minister of Finance is irrelevant.

**The Chairman**: Order. Surely, all this long history of carpet crossing has nothing to do with this Clause 4.

**Clause 4—(WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATES)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.**

**Clause 5—(REMOVAL OF LIMITATION ON PERIOD WHEN TREATING IS PROHIBITED).**

**Mr A. E. Effiong-Spatts** (Calabar): I think Clause 5 in its generality will precipitate some

[MR EFFIONG-SPATTS]—trouble. Why I say this is that it is too general in outlook.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja)**: On a point of order, I have already given notice of disallowing carpet crossers from talking in this House!

**Mr Effiong-Spatts**: For your information, I have never crossed carpet in this House.

**The Chairman**: Order, order. I think we have heard enough interruptions from my immediate left as well as from my immediate right. This is very improper.

**Mr Effiong-Spatts**: As I was saying Clause 5 will generate a lot of trouble. This Clause makes one to understand that anybody who favours, or gives out any favours between the time of winning an election up to the next five years will be implicated. That is to say, if a person wins the election and in the next four years he gives out a scholarship to show appreciation of the confidence given to him by his constituents, he will become liable under this Clause.

I should like to point out that this Clause should be made more specific because if a Member offers a scholarship, his action might be interpreted to give the impression that he has done so in order to win election. That is why I say Clause 5 should be made more specific, in order to help the people. Apart from that, political parties who have lost elections will use that Clause to implicate people.

I do hope the Minister of Internal Affairs will see this fact and make this section more specific. He can ask the Attorney-General to help him to do that, so that people will not go to the court and say another man has given money to a widow for the purpose of winning elections, *et cetera*. That is all.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari)**: I am surprised that Members have taken so much time in discussing this Bill which they themselves have originated as a result of discussions on the original Bill which was brought in 1962. All this Bill seeks to do is to satisfy the requests made in this honourable House and in the Senate by the Members themselves.

The Electoral Bill 1962 came to this House and Members expressed dissatisfaction with certain aspects of it and the contents of this Bill are points which the hon. Members themselves have brought up.

Members talk about treating, and all we are doing now is to meet the wishes of hon. Members to stamp out corruption and treating by people during elections and thereafter. Corruption is corruption at any time it occurs. It is the hon. Members themselves who asked that there should be provision to stop corruption which has been introduced into this country by the Action Group during election periods.

What the Member for Calabar (*Mr Effiong-Spatts*) said about treating and its being misunderstood, is a bit difficult to understand. I should say that the interpretation of the law is the business of the law courts, and the courts are competent enough to know which type of treating is good and which is bad. It is not for me to interpret the law, but what we are trying to do is to stamp out corruption in this country, and this is one of the measures to achieve this end.

*Clause 5—(REMOVAL OF LIMITATION ON PERIOD WHEN TREATING IS PROHIBITED)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS).*

**Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North)**: Now that we are about to pass this Bill, I only want to say that we are grateful to the Minister of Internal Affairs (*Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari*) for presenting the Bill. I am sure he is one of the Ministers who are guided by public opinion. He has respected our views and we accept what he has presented to us. He is a progressive Minister, there is no doubt about it.

The only point I want to make is that of treating. There is no point in passing a law here which we cannot enforce. We pass this law of treating now and tomorrow we find people going around treating without the police officers enforcing the law. I am appealing that to avoid corrupt practices, we legislators should set the example. There is no point

shouting against corruption when some public men, including politicians, are corrupt and also try to engineer it in the village or teach the man in the village what is known as corruption in order to run down the other man. If we can set the example and show others to follow us, the law would achieve its desired end.

Finally, I am appealing that this law should be enforced, but if we cannot enforce it there is no point passing the Bill.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South)**: I think, if there is anything that can be done to remove corrupt practices during, before or after elections, this Parliament will encourage it. I agree with the Member for Owerri North (*Mr Mbah*) that the first people to contravene this Clause 5 of the law will be the Members of this House. They have already started doing it. I wish that this law becomes retrospective in effect so that in future, election may be very fair and void of corruption or anything tendentious to it. Nobody who comes to this House should come in a corruptible manner. When we hear of stockfish being sold very dear in this country, it is because of treating.

I am sure there is a penalty already laid down for those who infringe this section of the law, but I must suggest that in administering this law, the police should be warned about it, even though—

**An hon. Member**: This man has no shame!

**Mr Ekanem**: I do not want to be disturbed. I want it on record that my status, family, where I come from, and age, will always guard me to keep secrets.

This law should include the candidate himself and his agents because, if the Member himself does not do it, he could employ agents. I know somewhere, especially in my constituency, where a certain party has not been able to succeed since 1951, and will never succeed. I feel this provision is just timely because if there is any constituency where this law will not be enforced, it will be enforced in the constituency where I come from.

I beg to support this Bill.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Ibarapa)**: I think the idea in clause 3 of increasing the deposit to £100 is to prevent frivolous objectives. I support that the deposit should be increased from £25 to £100 to make sure that the right people come up for election. Again, I feel that if we cannot increase the deposit from

£100 to £200 for anybody who wants to contest an election, we can do something else: we can prescribe a certain academic standard that a prospective candidate must attain. Just yesterday, we heard that in Dahomey the minimum qualification for contesting election to their House of Assembly is a secondary education. I know we cannot do that in Nigeria because not all the people in Nigeria can have a secondary education at this moment, but still we can do something. We can say that anybody who contests an election should be somebody usefully engaged in a certain business.

In the past we found people who could be called jobless, people who were employable but unemployed, coming up to contest election because they were sponsored by certain political parties and given the deposit money. What such people do if they are fortunate to win the election, is that immediately they get to the House, they are no more satisfied with the party that gave them the deposit money, and they start going from party to party until they go round all the parties. (*Interruptions*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third time and passed.*

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS) (No. 6) ORDER, 1963

**The Minister of Finance**: I rise to move the first Motion standing in my name, That in accordance with section 7 (2) of the Customs Tariff Act, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 6) Order, 1963 be continued.

I certify that in accordance with the Standing Order of the House, the President of the Republic has given his recommendation to the consideration of this Motion.

There is nothing controversial about this Order. It is the same as the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 5) Order, 1963 which I laid before the House during its last meeting and was published as a correction to a number of minor printing errors which were detected in the latter Order. There is, therefore, nothing new in it.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuf Maitama Sule)**: I beg to second.

**Mr C. A. Odigbo** (Bende West): I rise to support the Motion before the House. We are very much aware that customs duties are the most important source of the revenue of our Government, and it is necessary that every effort should be made to safeguard the interest of the Government so that all the development which depends upon this revenue can go on nicely. But in carrying out this important task of collecting the revenue, adequate regard should be given to the common man—the consumers of the imported articles on which duty is charged.—

**The Minister of Finance**: On a point of order, this Motion that I have moved concerns correction of errors. How does correction of technical errors affect the common man in the hon. Gentleman's constituency? If he wants to speak on second-hand clothing, I am introducing that Motion after this one and he will then have an ample chance to debate it then.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, I am rather amazed that the Minister of Finance of this country can involve the country in one hundred million pounds loss, and if we talk of it we are not wrong.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*: That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 6) Order, 1963 (Legal Notice No. 132 of 1963), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th January, be approved.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)  
(No. 7) ORDER, 1963

**The Minister of Finance**: I now rise to move the second Motion standing in my name. I am afraid I have to appeal to all sides of the House to please listen to the statement I want to make in connection with this Motion, especially those who are particularly interested in it so that the other Members who are not interested in this matter may be able to make fair contributions to the debate. It is no use making noise and then not hearing what I have to say.

I beg to move, That in accordance with section 7 (2) of the Customs Tariff Act, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 7) Order, 1963 be confirmed.

This Order reduces the duty on second-hand clothing from 2s-6d per pound to 1s-3d per pound and was made necessary—

*The Member for Ikeja (Mr Ogunsanya) spoke.*

**The Minister of Finance**: What is the matter with the Member for Ikeja (Mr Ogunsanya)?

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): I am talking with the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and I think I am at liberty to speak to people in this House.

**The Minister of Finance**: I wonder whether, if Members put themselves in my position, they would not take this matter seriously, because they know that whilst I was away doing my duty to this country, I was severely attacked on this issue. When a Motion on the matter is before the House it is therefore only right and proper that I should be given a hearing so that Members will have a clear idea of what the Government is doing.

This Order reduces the duty on secondhand clothing from 2s-6d per pound to 1s-3d per pound and was made necessary by a number of representations from various shades of opinion in the country protesting against the duty as being excessive and asking that it be reduced.

These protests were by no means unexpected as the rate of duty applicable then and the basis on which it was levied represented a high increase in the duty payable on secondhand clothing. Some of the protests were misconceived, but I was satisfied that a case was made and the Government decided that the duty should be lowered from 2s-6d per pound to 1s-3d per pound.

There have been representations and further protests even on the new level of duty, and this time mainly from the dealers in second-hand clothing.

**Professor Kalu Ezera** (Bende East): From us.

**The Minister of Finance**: I have not received any protest from the Member for Bende East (Professor Ezera). In any case, is the Member a secondhand clothing dealer?

**Professor Ezera**: Yes.

**The Minister of Finance**: Then, with very great respect to the hon. Member, he

must be a very bad Professor wearing second-hand clothes like the Member for Degema (Mr Briggs) who is wearing the coat he inherited from his brother who committed suicide!

Now, speaking seriously, these are ill-conceived and the petitioners are deliberately misrepresenting the facts to suit their own purpose. They know that the new duty means that there is less to pay as duty on many articles of secondhand clothing now than before, but they do not want to accept it. For instance, shirts, whether new or old—and I want hon. Members to get the facts straight—the rate of duty before any increase at all on secondhand clothing, between secondhand shirts and new shirts, was supposed to be the same, because it was a specific rate of duty and not *ad valorem*, so that the rate of duty on shirts, whether new or old, before the increase was 2s-6d per pound, and now 1s-3d per pound.

Now, an ordinary shirt weighs less than half a pound, so that the new duty does not amount to more than 7d per shirt. It must be understood that this so-called secondhand clothing includes shirts, cardigans, and all sorts of dresses that are worn by people. I suppose that this is clearly followed by hon. Members.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): Yes, it is followed, Mr Lecturer.

**The Minister of Finance**: The Member for Ikeja (Mr Ogunsanya) has to talk to the Professor who is a lecturer; I am not.

The reason for their complaint is that they had not been paying the correct rate of duty before the change. If they had, they would have found that the new rate had an element of generosity on the part of the Federal Government.

At this stage, hon. Members will be interested to know that the motive behind this imposition is to kill the smuggling and the fraud which had been going on for several years in the secondhand clothing trade. Bales containing garments bearing a specific duty were declared as household rummage so as to attract a lower rate of duty. Shirts and singlets were hidden in bales of low-duty goods, and some importers had even gone to the extent of instructing their suppliers to prepare artificially low invoices which were handed over to Customs for purposes of assessing duty, and Customs have abundant evidence.

When these so-called secondhand clothing dealers go to America, they would be surprised because it is a close club. If the hon. Member for Lagos Central (Mr Dosunmu) writes to the secondhand clothing dealers in America, they will not supply him. Let him try it and see. They have their clients here. What they do is this: they ship it and quote about quarter of its price and then, after a lot of shipments have been made to Nigeria, they would fly down here and collect the differences here, and since Nigeria currency is convertible anywhere, they fly back with it without even observing the State Control Regulation. When one of them was to be caught he had to manage to run but they took him by car up to Kano and he flew overnight because we were watching for him in Lagos here. Is that the type of thing you want to support in this House?

**Several hon. Members**: No, no.

**The Minister of Finance**: The nature of the trade is therefore such that this type of smuggling and fraud can only be killed by dutying the articles on the basis of weight as well as by applying a minimum duty sufficient to make the practice unnecessary.

Hon. Members would also notice that when this imposition was made when the traders refused to clear the goods for the period of four weeks, there were over 3,000 bales of this secondhand clothing in Port Harcourt. So it is not just a spoon feeding trade, it is a very gigantic trade—3,000 bales in four weeks!

How on earth, if Government is losing revenue on such quantity of importation here, what will the Government do with the textiles factories in this country, and what will the Government do with people who are doing legitimate trade importing shirts and paying 2s-6d duty to sell it to you and me? What is more, these traders have been so rich that they have washermen, iron men, tailors and they have special celluloid papers with which to put in shirts.

**An hon. Member**: You seem to know a lot about them.

**The Minister of Finance**: Yes, because I have reports on them; it is my responsibility. When these so-called clothes are imported then these shirts that are called rummages are

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washed with *Omo* soap, starched properly, ironed properly and put in celluloid papers with the mark "made in England", and you get them in the market as new shirts.

The thing is not as simple as people lead the members of the public to believe. And if you have 3,000 bales of clothes in the Customs in four weeks, it is impossible for Customs to open these bales and then check them one by one to select which is shirt and which is singlet. We have done a lot of investigations about this. At one time, we threatened to open them and the people protested that if we opened them it would take three months to open a batch of it and then the clothes would be bad, the trade would get spoilt and they would lose their money. It is physically impossible to examine the whole 3,000 bales. If we do, the Ports Authority area will be congested and no other business will be done there.

In any case, what we have decided to do is to impose duty on weight and the ship owners would make sure that the bales are properly weighed. We had to call experts here to advise us on this particular issue, and I want to assure this honourable House that there is no intention on the part of the Government to penalise anybody, either individually or collectively, or to take any action that will annoy anybody. It is not a political measure whatsoever. It is the fact that Government realises that on this secondhand trading we are losing not less than two million pounds a year. So, we cannot afford to subsidise a group of people to defraud the country to the tune of two million pounds on the alter of political expediency.

We say quite frankly that the reduction that Government has made is magnanimous in itself and it is reasonable. There is an attempt not even to give it a trial but to come by every means to persuade the Government to reduce it from 1s-3d again to an absurd amount of 6d per lb weight. Quite frankly, I have no stake in these matters. I just do my duty from the facts and evidence produced before us by people who themselves were at one time or the other engaged in this particular trade. That is how we know. The people dismissed by these second hand clothing dealers brought us this information to us. This is all we know.

We also received protests from the importers of textile goods all over the country that the secondhand clothing business is driving them out of the market in their legitimate trade on new shorts, and we have a duty to protect legitimate trade in this country.

This is the case as we know it, and if anybody has another side to the story, please let him do so. But this much I have to say, that representations that have been made have been carefully considered by the Government and we have decided that before we can do anything further, if at all, we must re-examine the whole issue, and as a result of that we have decided that further investigations should be made, and in this case I am taking into confidence my colleagues in the Eastern Region. I have therefore directed that a senior official of my Ministry and an official of the Ministry of Finance in the Eastern Region and an independent individual should carefully but quietly examine the whole matter and bring a report to the Government. Until they submit that report, I do not see what we can do. When such a report is submitted, then of course the Government will examine it on the basis of facts collected by this body. And I give this as advance information to my hon. Friends that taxation measures are not measures that Government can handle arbitrarily. They must be carefully examined and we must know the facts of the matter.

With this explanation, I think I have given the country, not only this House, the facts surrounding this business of secondhand clothing.

I commend this Motion seriously to the whole House for acceptance.

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** I beg to second.

**Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) :** I have first of all to appeal to all sides of this House that this is a very grave issue which transcends partisan boundary and neither Government nor Opposition, should take it as a side issue. From my point of view it is a very grave national issue which I consider of great importance.

I also appeal to all hon. Members to lend me their ears. I may not be able to answer the technicalities which my hon. Friend the Federal Minister of Finance have been able to adduce before you. I am going to be honest

with you, I consider most of these technicalities quite misleading in many respects but I am not here now to say how far they are true and how far they are not true. All what I want to lay before hon. Members is that the issue of secondhand clothing has arisen as a result of a need which has pervaded the whole country.

The Minister of Finance himself is fully aware that we are a developing country and that the masses of our people in the countryside—I am not talking of the urban areas—rely largely on secondhand clothes for clothing themselves and their families. Therefore, when I speak here—

**Mr. A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, (Order 25). I have about 75,000 people in my constituency and we do not use secondhand clothes.

**Some hon. Members :** Sit down, sit down.

**Professor Ezera :** All I am saying is that a large percentage of the population of this country in the rural areas who cannot afford to go to Kingsway or Leventis or U.T.C. have been able to clothe themselves as a result of the secondhand clothing trade.

I am, therefore, speaking as a spokesman of the patronisers of this trade—I am not ashamed to do it—that is the masses of the people of this country. I would not have been interested if it were a matter of business. I am not a businessman but this matter affects the economic life of the Eastern Region particularly my own area.

**An hon. Member :** I see !

**Professor Ezera :** There is nothing wrong in that. We live in a Federation, what affects me affects you, and what affects you should affect me. I appeal to you, hon. Gentlemen, not to be biased. I still make my appeal even if the impact of the pinch is more on me and my people.

Our plea is simple, we have approached my hon. Friend the Minister of Finance several times and we have thought that by human approach, by personal relations, we could make a more effective impact on him ; it was never our wish at all that this should come on the Floor of this Parliament. As a matter of fact, I must confess we do not know

that it was coming because relevant *Gazette* was not given to us particularly on this issue. We took it for granted that we were still negotiating with the Minister on the issue.

However, since it has come before this honourable House, the plea we are making is that the duty of 1s-3d per pound weight should be reduced to 6d per pound weight. The reasons are clear enough. Before this increase on duty was made the dealers were paying duty on this on an equivalent *ad valorem* rate which worked out then at the rate of 6d in a pound. This is exactly what the dealers would like to pay. They do not want to defraud the Government.

I will come to the question of smuggling later. I do not want to give the impression that we on this side of the House are supporting smuggling. The issue is not an N.C.N.C. issue, it is a non-partisan issue. What they were paying before is exactly what we are asking that they continue to pay and that was 6d per pound weight. To increase it from 6d to 2s-6d or 1s-3d is rather prohibitive and oppressive.

Hon. Members I appeal to you, because you all come from constituencies. How many of your constituents can afford to go to U.A.C. ? How many of them can afford to go to Kingsway ? I want to warn that this is an economic issue on which the wellbeing of the masses of this country depends, therefore, it should not be treated with partisanship. Are you hon. Members, prepared to protect the U.A.C. in preference to your own indigenous people ? If not, I will suggest that a reduction to 6d per pound weight will be the most considerate, and the most reasonable thing to do in order to cater for the interest of the masses of the people and the users as well.

My hon. Friend the Minister of Finance made mention of textiles. I want to say that until textile factories in this country are large enough to produce to the extent that people can buy cheaply from them, there is no need to increase the duty on secondhand clothing. If we increase the duty on this clothing at this time when the factories are not in full production, it would be doing a great deal of harm to the very great number of people who are dependent on this for clothing themselves and

[PROFESSOR EZERA]

their families and, it is going to endanger the already deteriorating rate of unemployment in this country.

That is why we are appealing very seriously, and we are pleading with you, Mr Speaker and the Minister of Finance, that on no account should we allow sentiments to guide us to pass this Motion before this honourable House. Let us give the matter some consideration in the interest of the nation.

There is another very serious allegation and it is that expatriate firms are interested in the suppression of this trade. We all know that this Parliament has always stood out in the forefront to fight for the economic freedom of this country and I do not think that this Parliament will be lacking this time in continuing that fight for the economic freedom of this country.

The point I want to make here is that the people whose interest will be better served by the suppression of this trade would be the business tycoons, the combines, and the expatriate firms. This is the simple truth. I am not at all suggesting that we should not protect our textile factories, but until our own indigenous textile factories, I repeat, until our own indigenous factories, begin to produce to the extent large enough, and cheap enough, for the masses of the people, there is no need now to begin to suppress the trade in second-hand clothing.

At the moment, the prohibitive duty of 1s-3d per pound weight is designed to kill the trade.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I understand that the proper name for secondhand clothes is *Okrika wake up*.

**Mr W. O. Briggs** (Degema): That name is derived from Umu Okrika which is in Ibo land.

**Professor Ezera**: Whether you call it *Okrika wake up*, or *Sapele wake up*, or *Warri wake up*, does not appeal to me. I am concerned with the plea we are making to the Federal Government through the Federal Minister of Finance to reduce this prohibitive duty of 1s-3d per pound weight to 6d per pound weight. That is our plea.

Now some people are alleging that if we allow the trade to continue, we might be called a secondhand country, a country that deals in

secondhand clothes, and so on. My contention is that it is better to be called a secondhand country, than to have the great masses of our people insufficiently clothed. We are satisfied with any names we are called provided our people are well clothed.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I call the attention of my hon. Friend and Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) to Standing Order 25 which forbids irrelevance while making a speech. The Government has considered all the points he is trying to advance, and has accepted to reduce the duty from 2s-6d per pound weight to 1s-3d per pound weight. All my hon. Friend has to do is to thank the Government, and not waste the time of this House trying to seek further reduction.

**Mr Speaker**: There is no harm in the hon. Member trying to collect as much facts as possible to convince the House of his arguments.

**Professor Ezera**: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for coming to my defence. I started, first of all, by making a plea to the Speaker and to the Members to bear with me in my argument to effect a further reduction in the duty on secondhand clothing. What I am now wearing is a secondhand clothing. Some people have called me Professor secondhand clothier. I do not mind being called this name if only I succeed in getting the Minister of Finance to reduce the duty on secondhand clothing from 1s-3d to 6d per pound weight.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): The Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) is misleading this House, besides he should realise that whatever we say here does not end in Nigeria; it goes all over the world. The hon. Member is wearing agbada, which is not imported from foreign countries.

We would not like the world press to have the impression that we wear secondhand clothing. They will flash it that Members of the Nigerian Parliament wear secondhand clothing. Certainly Professor Ezera is not wearing secondhand clothing. They do not make this sort of thing in America, but here in Nigeria. We do not want him to misrepresent us to the outside world.

**Mr Speaker**: We all very well know that the hon. Member is wearing a Nigerian dress, and so it cannot be a secondhand clothing.

**Professor Ezera**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I meant was that the clothes I wear are over five years old. It could rank as second-hand clothing. Besides, Sir, the issue is not whether I wear secondhand or even first-class clothing. The issue is to enlist the support of hon. Members across the Floor to agree on 6d per pound weight duty on secondhand clothing.

Let me now come to the other very serious aspect. The Federal Minister of Finance made a very serious allegation—an allegation of smuggling and fraudulent practices involved in this trade, in fact, an allegation against Nigeria. All I wish to say here is that I am in great sympathy with the Government on the question of suppressing smuggling. I am also in great sympathy with the Government in checking fraudulent practices.

We cannot, because a few dishonest people indulge in smuggling and fraudulent practices,

allow the masses of this country to suffer. My contention, therefore, is that effective ways and means should be found for checking smuggling and fraudulent practices. I hope my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, is listening to me because I am making a plea to him.

We can check very effectively the fraudulent practices involved in this trade, we can check very effectively the smuggling involved without necessarily killing the trade. That is my point. I want the Federal Minister of Finance to get this point clear. We are at one with him in checking smuggling, we are at one with him in curbing fraudulent practices. But we do not think that it is right that, because of the dishonest practices of a few, the whole trade should be banned by imposing a very heavy duty as a kind of penalty.

*Sitting suspended : 6 p.m.*

Sitting resumed : 9.00 p.m.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** As I was trying to wind up before we rose at 6 p.m. I was assuring the Minister of Finance that all of us are opposed to fraudulent and smuggling practices as he had alleged are found in the trade. We have appealed to him that effective ways and means should be found to check these fraudulent activities. As a matter of fact the dealers and users concerned with this trade have also pledged to give a hundred *per cent* support to any measure introduced by the Government for checking these fraudulent practices in the trade.

That much I can say ; so the question of fraudulent practices should not, therefore, be used to ban an otherwise legitimate and very necessary trade, because those who indulge in these bad practices are few and far between. You cannot, therefore, use the sins of a few people and visit them on the masses whose welfare depends on the trade.

The House will agree that an increase from 6d to 2s-6d (a five hundred *per cent* increase) is wicked to say the least, and the Minister himself knew this when we made approaches and representations to him. He agreed to change it from the same 2s-6d to 1s-3d, which still leaves us with a two hundred and fifty *per cent* increase. This is what the House does not realise—that originally the duty was 6d and then increased to 2s-6d.

**The Minister of Finance :** On a point of information, my hon. Friend—

**The Deputy Speaker :** Does the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) yield on the point of information ?

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** I am pleading with him so that any information he desires to give should be of benefit to the matter we are now discussing.

**The Minister of Finance :** All I want to do is to appeal to my hon. Friend not to mislead the House. The previous duty was not 6d per pound and I challenge him to produce the tariff to show that the previous duty was 6d per pound.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** The Minister has not told us what it was originally before it went up. All I am saying is that all the evidence adduced, minus sentiments, shows clearly that

was intolerable to have an increase of five hundred *per cent* duty on goods used by the poorest mass of people in this country. Every hon. Member knows that we all represent the masses of the rural areas. We are not all from Ibadan, Lagos or Enugu ; we all come from the rural areas. And if any Member feels otherwise I do not myself. We all know the plight of the masses in the countryside.

May I give this House a gentle hint that is growing among the people of the countryside. When they see anybody with a big car pass by they say "yes, Members of Parliament have squandered all our money". If they see anyone pass by with a big flowing gown, like that of the Minister of Finance, they murmur that the politicians in the Federal Parliament have made use of all their money. If I may ask this question, do hon. Members know the type of discontent, the type of disillusionment brewing in the country ?

**Minister of State (Alhaji the hon. Hashimu Adaji) :** On a point of order, the type of remark the hon. Gentleman speaking is making is peculiar to the people of the South ; there is nothing like that in the North.

**The Deputy Speaker :** May I say that the point made on the excuse of a point of order might be more of a point of provocation than of a point of order.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** The point I am trying to remind hon. Members of with due respect, is a simple one, namely, that we should endeavour to show by our actions that we represent the interests of the people of the hinterland. (*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker :** Certainly I will not have any point of disorder.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for according me protection. Members again should realise that the masses of the country who come from the rural areas, and who use these special items of goods, are particularly pained and touched by this heavy increase. And I am making the point that we should not give the slightest impression that we do not care for their interest.

But when in fact an increase as this affects all those who are naked in this part of the world—people who cannot clothe themselves except

they go to U.A.C. and U.T.C. and John Holt and all the expatriate firms in the country—are you sure that we are really representing their interests here ?—My answer is no ; and—

**Chief Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** On a point of order, I want the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) to let me know what interests he is talking about. Is it the interests of the masses or the interests of the profiteering dealers ?

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** I do not see how a question can be a point of order ; but if you want me to answer him I will say that I am representing the masses—the users of second-hand clothing.

Several hon. Members : No, no.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) :** I will advise my hon. Friend, the Member for Bende East to refrain from telling the Speaker what to do. The Speaker knows which is a point of order and which is not a point of order and I would not like the hon. Professor to insult the intelligence of the Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Order, order ! I am sure we must make allowances ; otherwise one could have said that the last point made on the excuse of a point of order was more of a point of instruction or a point of direction than a point of order.

**Professor Kalu Ezera :** Finally, what I want to say is that I am pleading and pleading very seriously that a reduction from 1s-3d to 6d a pound weight is the most legitimate, the most reasonable and the most logical thing the Government should do with the co-operation of our able Minister of Finance ; a very progressive Minister whose six Budget Speeches have been bound into a book and anybody reading through the book knows very well that he caters for the interests of the masses. So we are pleading very seriously that without saying whether his case can be put to test in a law court, he should be kind enough to reduce the duty to 6d a pound. So, I beg to oppose.

**The Minister of Finance :** On a point of information and if I may have the indulgence of the House with your permission, Sir, I

would like to give you the facts so that everybody will follow.

The information I want to give is clearly the rates of duty on these things—on the clothes—before the imposition of 2s-6d duty, and I am taking the rates from the Government file so that you may not be misled that it was 6d. I will give the information in full.

The plain fact is that it is not correct to say that the former duty on secondhand clothing was 6d per pound. Until the recent amendment, tariffs made no distinction between new and used clothing and prescribed the following rates of duty :—

1. Cardigans, jerseys, pullovers and similar garments—each 2s-6d or *ad valorem* 33½ *per centum* whichever is the higher.

2. Chemises, singlets, undervests and similar garments—each 1s or *ad valorem* 33½ *per centum* whichever is the higher.

3. Footwear, other than gaiters, leggings, puttees and spats, the pair—3s-6d or *ad valorem* 33½ *per centum* whichever is the higher.

4. Hose and stockings, the pair—8d or *ad valorem* 33½ *per centum*, whichever is the higher.

5. Shirts, each—2s-6d or *ad valorem* 33½ *per centum*, whichever is the higher.

6. Others—*ad valorem* 33½ *per centum*.

This is a statement of fact from the records of the Government to show that there is nowhere you will find a charge of 6d per pound as my hon. Friend Professor Kalu Ezera had been misled by his clients.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago (Gwarzo East) :** I rise reluctantly to support what is before the House about this tariff business. To my way of thinking, my quarrel is not on the tariff ; it goes deeper. It is most unfortunate ; it is a pity that of all the Parliaments under the sun this is the only Parliament which discusses secondhand clothing ; it is a shame ; it is a disgrace to Nigeria, to me and to you. (*Laughter*).

How long will this sort of thing continue in an independent Nigeria I wish to live long enough to see. If there were a country to



[ALHAJI DANDAGO]

which we could export our secondhand clothes that would be reasonable and we can understand that. But for anybody dying and losing his life and vomiting and what have you to send his clothes to us is a national disgrace.

I am not standing here to oppose it; it is a suggestion brought by our good friend and on honour we shall support it but only reluctantly are we supporting it. As I said, my argument is not on the tariff; it is on the abolition of the secondhand clothing in Nigeria. I am of the candid opinion that we can do without secondhand clothes in Nigeria. To say that because some people go about naked and that is why we are importing secondhand clothing is no logic at all.

**An hon. Member:** On a point of order; the issue is not that it is derogatory; the issue is that some people make a decent living out of the trade.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago:** Coming nearer home I think I will support it after giving my views because I do not know how to remedy the bad practices which go with this trade because it has been alleged here by some Members that some clean and new articles are smuggled with these clothes. We have been persuaded by Professor Kalu Ezera but to what extent his persuasion will go I do not know. But if in a country like Nigeria we can allow secondhand clothes to come and in them diseases follow; foreign diseases, external diseases—

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai (Dambatta):** On a point of information, an American dollar was found in one of the pockets of these secondhand clothes.

**Alhaji Dandago:** If the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) considers that as a credit, I hope he is not saying that we should be buying them in the hope that we shall get American dollars! I would remind hon. Members that it is not wise to get a disease while getting a dollar, because the dollar cannot cure the disease. It is useless.

I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South):** In supporting the Motion moved by the hon. Minister of Finance I think some of the people who, we think, are experts and professors in this country, who do impart knowledge, are

very difficult to explain matters to, otherwise the way the Minister of Finance explained the true position of importation of secondhand clothing this evening is enough for any Member of this House to understand.

Nigeria cannot afford to continue to lose money at the expense of people who are doing this business. I think a professor of the calibre of the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) pleading for this cause should actually come to the Floor of this House and plead for more universities, more colleges, more schools, and more scholarships for every Tom, Dick and Harry rather than come here to plead for secondhand clothing. He went to the extent of saying that he was using secondhand clothing and when he was coming here this night he changed the dress again. If he has got a pattern of the dress to show indicating that secondhand clothing is good for him we may think of changing our minds on this matter.

**Professor Ezera:** On a point of order, I do not see the relevance to the debate of why I wear. I was willing to concede to the House that I am not ashamed to wear secondhand clothes because I know they are good. (*Interruptions.*)

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order! I think that in the course of debate arguments flow forwards and backwards. If we heard the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) correctly this evening he did allude to himself as wearing secondhand clothing.

**Mr Odulana:** I thank you very much indeed, Sir. I do not need again to refer to the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) as a man who does not speak the truth! Now, my contention about this Motion is what the Member for Gwarzo East (*Alhaji Bello Dandago*) has stated. I would have suggested that a Bill should be brought here that nothing like secondhand clothing from any part of the world should be brought to Nigeria. Secondhand clothing should be abolished. We do not want it here.

**An hon. Member:** But it is good.

**Mr Odulana:** If it is good for that Member it is not good for the rest of us. We have heard that some hon. Members in some parts of Nigeria called pressmen and threat-

to rock the House of Parliament. They went further to say that nothing will prevent the Federal House of Parliament from reducing his tariff to sixpence per pound. They sent telegrams to the Prime Minister and to the Premier of the Region. What is in that? For what do they do that? Could it be for secondhand clothing?

We have textile mills all over this country. A textile mill is going to start functioning in the Eastern Region to the tune of £5 million. There is a textile mill in the Northern Region. There is a textile mill at Ikeja, and more will soon be installed. Let us find industries that will give us people first class clothing rather than encourage the use of other people's clothes, especially as we do not know them. We do not know where these people, and we do not know where these clothes were brought from. We are praying not to have diseases in our country. We are short of doctors, but we people are bringing in these ragged things under the guise of secondhand clothing.

I think it is a shame for hon. Members to come here and advocate or plead the cause of secondhand clothing. I do not want to say much but to support solidly the cause of the Minister of Finance. We say we want money and more industries, and here is a business that is taking away £2 million and over from the pocket of the Government every year. We want the Minister of Finance to find money for us but when he goes abroad we complain that he goes to loan money, that he is going to do this and that. What is all this?

I appeal to the Minister to increase further the duty from 1s-3d to 5s. I think that if the Minister of Finance increases it to 5s per pound the people engaged in this kind of trade will be driven out of the trade by force.

I am grateful for being given the privilege of speaking a little. I am a businessman myself. I speak before about people who do not pay their evaders of tax in high quarters. People make secondhand clothing their business and the people defrauding this country. They are rogues, and we do not want rogues in this country. We do not want people who would puzzle Government funds in the way of going in secondhand clothing and any professor, or doctor, or expert who pleads that we may be thought of otherwise.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt):** I want first of all to thank the Minister of Finance for having released those goods that were detained at Port Harcourt Wharf numbering 3,000 bales.

What is before us now is the duty of 2s-6d being reduced to 1s-3d. That is the approval that the hon. Minister of Finance is seeking from this House. But we are saying that the reduction from 2s-6d to 1s-3d is not sufficient. That is our pleading. We are pleading that the Minister should re-consider this situation and bring this down to 6d per pound. That is our case. So, we are asking the hon. Minister of Finance to re-consider this matter.

I heard the hon. Minister of Finance saying that these secondhand clothes are sold as new ones. This is not correct. It is not correct to say that these goods are sold as new ones. I happen to know that these goods are loaded under hatches. Further the Minister said that secondhand clothing dealers employ washermen and tailors—

**An hon. Member:** They give them employment.

**Mr Okay:** It happens this way. These goods are loaded under hatches which are not all that clean, and some of them become dirty. These are the ones which are washed and pressed. Sometimes, too, they are torn in the process of discharging them.

It is wrong to say that these goods are sold as new ones. So, I still believe that the hon. Minister can give this matter a second thought.

**Several hon. Members:** No, no.

**Mr Okay:** We want the duty to be reduced to 6d a pound.

**Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central):** As Members know, it is not my practice to get up to speak unless I have views different from those already expressed. I cannot go on repeating what people have already said.

Our duty is to examine the custom duty which the Government has imposed on this secondhand clothing. Whether starch is put in the clothes or whether they are ironed is not our concern. Now that people are advocating a reduction in the duty, have we tried to examine whether the Shipping Companies have reduced the charges on secondhand clothing?

[MR BABATUNDE]

Another thing is that we must be in sympathy with the Minister of Finance. Before Ministers bring any Bill into this House, they generally get themselves well armed by causing investigations to be made and making all enquiries which no Floor Member can have the means or the money to undertake. Our Ministers always investigate matters thoroughly before they bring Bills into this House on such matters. That is the reason why we should change, and not because people have begged us to come and talk here on their behalf.

Then, there is another danger about these secondhand clothings. The Minister said something which he ought not to have said. He said that the Customs Officials had not got the time to open these clothings and examine them. Some unscrupulous people might take advantage of such statement to import contraband goods into the country in the guise of secondhand clothing.

As for me, if I speak and notice that my Chief Whip does not support me, I will not go on for hours and hours as one hon. Member has done. His Party tried in vain to check him. Who will then recommend what this Parliament should do to stop throwing our money away especially when we have no other means of increasing our revenue.

Another point concerns the allegation made by one hon. Member that secondhand clothing is capable of bringing diseases into the country. I thank the hon. Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) who said that he found something in the pocket of one of them. I was going to ask how and from where these materials got into the country.

I think it is necessary to find out whether these secondhand clothings are being imported into other countries like Sierra Leone, Gambia, *et cetera*.

The Minister of Finance should find out.

Another thing I want my hon. Friend to examine is why it is not possible for people who trade in secondhand clothings to switch on to other fields of endeavour.

Several hon. Members : Like what ?

Mr S. A. Babatunde : Like farming. It is really bad for people to come here and preach what they cannot practise. I know that the

Member for Bené East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) will never wear secondhand clothing, and neither his children nor his wife wear them.

For him to come here, therefore and try to persuade other Members to support him because he has been commissioned by certain people is bad. I could have supported a duty of 2s-6d but because these people are crying I will support the 1s-3d that the Government has now agreed upon.

Mr F. I. Okoronkwo (Aba Urban) : In the first place we have to thank the Minister of Finance for the consideration he gave when there was agitation against the increased duty of 2s-6d.

Now, we want the Members of this Parliament to realise the importance of these secondhand clothings. I would like the Minister of Finance to realise that this is almost a way of banning secondhand clothing from coming into this country and this step will no doubt, affect adversely the masses of this country. There is nowhere in the Federation that secondhand clothing is not sold.

Even from Nigeria it is exported to neighbouring countries like the Cameroons, French Douala and other places. In this respect we are really against the fraudulent dealers and we would advise the Government to deal with them drastically. What we are concerned with is the interest of the people we represent.

In my own constituency since this trade went out of the market there has been an increase in burglary. People's houses are being burgled because those who were in this trade are now out of business and the Government should take this also into consideration. We are not fighting for the dealers, but for the users.

Members will remember that since 1960 some important firms in this country like the U.A.C., G.B.O., P.Z. and others have hands off produce buying and retail trade. They have retrenched many of their workers and those so retrenched now earn their living by trading in secondhand clothing. If the Government bans this trade, there will definitely be a wave of crime in the country. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to consider our views sympathetically and further reduce the increased duty of 1s-3d.

Some Members of Parliament are of the view that the increased duty should remain as it is whilst others are of the opinion that the present duty of 1s-3d should be further reduced. I would like hon. Members to realise that today, we are living in a very poor country. All the Members here can afford to buy a shirt costing £2-10s from the U.A.C. or Kingsway, but there are people who cannot afford to produce 1s-6d with which to buy something. This class of people would go to the market with a view to getting something with which to clothe their family at either 1s-3d or less. This is the point of argument. Members should not think of themselves, but should think of the masses whom they represent.

It is more dangerous for our people to go naked than to wear secondhand clothing. It does not speak well of this country to see our boys and girls going naked, they must have something with which to cover their nakedness.

An hon. Member : What would they look like ?

Mr Okoronkwo : The hon. Member should know what they would look like. We ought not to talk of dumping used clothing into Nigeria, we should think of going out to borrow money to finance our projects. Which is more shameful, to see our boys and girls going naked or to see them wearing something to cover their nakedness ?

I would like to appeal to the government not to think in terms of immediate profit. It is true there are fraudulent dealers and we are against any fraudulent dealer. I repeat that we are against any fraudulent dealer, and in this connection, we would like the government to make a thorough investigation by sending people to various places in this country and if it is even possible, a Commission of Inquiry should be set up to investigate whether or not the people want secondhand clothing to remain.

At present, we have no textile industry which would cheapen the price of textiles in Nigeria. Secondhand clothing is the only way out, and it is the only alternative that we have in the country to-day. I would like to know how many people can afford to buy the textiles produced at Kaduna.

Recently we have been talking of increasing the wages of labourers in this country. Now, would anyone expect for instance, a labourer

who has a wife and three or five children and who earns only 5s-1d or 4s-1d a day, to go to the United Africa Company to buy a shirt costing £2-10s-0d ? After all no one will allow his family to go naked ! It is from this angle that we are appealing to the Minister of Finance to consider a further reduction.

Mr S. A. Babatunde (Ilorin Central) : On a point of order, I would like hon. Members to be very careful about the way they speak of foreign firms. Members are fond of making unpleasant statements in this House about foreign firms and I am inclined to think that such statements might make them run away with their business. There should be no more mention of U.A.C. or P.Z., after all, our brothers too are in the trade.

The Deputy Speaker : That is certainly no point of order, but a point of comment.

Mr Okoronkwo : As I was saying, Members of this Parliament can afford to buy costly materials for clothing themselves but those whom we represent cannot, they are suffering. In Nigeria to-day, there is dissatisfaction all over. Trade is declining, businessmen and workers are suffering, and if this high duty is imposed, certainly, things will be made worse for the commoners. If we are the true representatives of the people, then we must listen to the voice of the people. If we are catering for the interest of the commoners in this country, we must at the same time listen to their voices whenever there is something adversely affecting their interest. If we really want to maintain the unity and peace of this country, we must listen to those who are suffering in the hands of alien combines.

I am, once again appealing to the Minister of Finance to institute a Commission of Inquiry which would visit all the important towns in the Federation particularly in Eastern Nigeria, in order to ascertain whether or not the people are in support of banning secondhand clothing. If they support the banning of secondhand clothing, then the Minister of Finance will be free to proceed with his plans, but if the people want secondhand clothing to remain, then the Minister of Finance should further consider the reduction of import duties on secondhand clothing.

The government should punish any trader who is found carrying on fraudulent acts in the trade. We are not holding brief for the

[MR OKORONKWO]

traders because we know that some of them are bad and we would like them to be punished. They should be brought to book in order to teach others a lesson. I think this is the only way the government can tackle this problem.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): I wonder why we should allow this question of secondhand clothing to waste the time of the House. I am one of those who will support this Bill as the government Chief Whip has said. I support it because I know that government has shown two things—the interest of the few, and the interest of the masses. The fact that the Government has allowed a debate in this House on this issue of secondhand clothing shows that the interest of the few is being protected. But at the same time, if one looks at the whole matter again, one will be tempted to ask whether the government should protect the interest of dealers in secondhand clothing at the expense of the interest of the whole nation.

**An hon. Member:** It is constituency interest.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** Any Member of this Parliament is responsible to his own constituency, but at the same time if in a particular constituency there is something which will affect the entire Federation, then it is no more the responsibility of the Member representing that constituency alone.

Secondhand clothing, as we have been made to understand, does not only concern the Eastern Region alone. The Member for Aba Urban (*Mr F. I. Okoronkwo*) has just told us that it is imported to the East, but the East is made a base from where it is redistributed to places outside Nigeria.

**An hon. Member:** Who said that?

**M. Ibrahim Gusau:** The Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) said it. This is not a question which affects only one Region or one particular constituency. I wonder why the Government has been so over-generous to dealers in secondhand clothing trade.

There are many charges which we can level against the Government in this respect. I know that anything imported into Nigeria is controlled in one way or the other in order to give room to our local industries to survive.

We were told by the Minister of Finance that within four weeks, 3,000 bales of secondhand clothing were dumped into the Port Harcourt wharf. If that is correct, where there any control exercised over the importation of secondhand clothing?

We know that everything imported into the country is based on the needs of the country. Secondhand clothing should come into Nigeria for the consumption of the particular area where it is required. The use of secondhand clothing should not be imposed on us because some of us do not require it.

This trade started not very long ago. We in the North, I must say, did not know of the trade in secondhand clothing until very recently when the people from Eastern Region introduced it into the North. We do not want it and we have never been naked. We charge the Government for failing to control the importation of secondhand clothing into Nigeria and we charge the Government for failing also to protect the national interest. We have been told by the Minister of Finance that we lost about £2 million within a very short period of time.

**The Minister of Finance:** I want to correct a statement I made earlier when I said that within four weeks, the quantity of bales imported was 3,000. Now, that was wrong and I want to correct it. From the 17th of September, to the 28th of September, not less than 22,000 bales were imported and by the time I returned, which was about six weeks, it was over 30,000 bales.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau:** As I was saying, we charge the Government for failing to control the importation of secondhand clothing into this country. We also charge the Government for failing to safeguard textile industries which are springing up in the country. If the importation of secondhand clothing is allowed to continue or is encouraged as the case has just been shown, shall we not be undermining the success of the textile industry for which we have been labouring in this country? So, we charge this Government for failing to encourage our own textile industries.

If any particular area requires any particular thing, there is no reason why that particular area should not have it. We have no quarrel

about that, but for the Government to compel the nation to suffer because of a few people, I do not think this Parliament can give any such power.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): I would like to remind the Member for Sokoto West Central (*M. Ibrahim Gusau*) that even the ships and aeroplanes we use to-day are reconditioned ships and aeroplanes and they are secondhand things.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am sure we have no secondhand men here. May we hear Mallam Ibrahim Gusau, please.

**An hon. Member:** There are two secondhand men at the other side.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, under section 25 of the Standing Order, I want to say that if I am considered a secondhand man, clearly it is that group there, the N.C.N.C. group from the Eastern Region, that has made me a secondhand man. (*Interruptions*).

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, order. Certainly, I would not have interrupted the Member for Enyong South (*Mr Ekanem*), but I thought I heard him mention Standing Order 25. If the hon. Member was relying on Standing Order 25, well Standing Order 25 deals on "Dispensing with Notice."

**Mr I. A. Brown** (Uyo South West): If I am clearly a secondhand Member of Parliament, I am sure I must have come from a secondhand Region.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau:** I am not convinced by the remarks made by the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*). We should not be importing secondhand clothes just because we buy secondhand ships and aeroplanes. There are many countries which are under-developed and they buy secondhand ships or aircraft. The reason is that they cannot afford the price of new ones. On the other hand, it is difficult to find a country that imports secondhand clothes and even if there is, the practice has originated from Eastern Nigeria. So, I am not convinced by his argument. What I am saying is that there are some of our people who have been to the United Nations who feel that they are equal to the other members of that Organisation. If we are proud to be equal to others, why do we do things that will make people outside this country think poorly of us?

**Professor Kalu Ezera:** On a point of order, my hon. Friend has just mentioned United Nations. This country also sends secondhand women to the United Nations! Our delegations are secondhand men and secondhand women!

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry I did not get the point of order made.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): On a point of order, I quite support the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) and that is the more reason why we need time to debate foreign affairs on the Floor of this House.

**The Minister of Finance:** On a point of information, I hope that what my hon. Friend, the Member for Bende East (*Professor Ezera*) said would not be on record because we have not sent secondhand men and secondhand women to the United Nations. On the contrary, we have sent men and women of substance who have acquitted themselves creditably in the United Nations.

**M. Sule Abba Biu** (Biu North): Professor Ezera himself is an N.C.N.C. member and the leader of the United Nations delegations, of course, is Dr Jaja Wachuku, and in this case he is being referred to as a secondhand man! He is not accountable to us, he is only accountable to the N.C.N.C. and with that, we note that Dr Jaja Wachuku is a secondhand man!

**The Minister of Finance:** I will not allow any hon. Member here to insult any of my colleagues whether he is here or not, and I will ask my hon. Friend, the Member for Biu North, (*M. Abba Biu*) to withdraw the statement. As a Government supporter he cannot call a Minister here a secondhand Minister.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, order! May I appeal to the House at this stage. It would appear that harmless and innocent expressions are being completely twisted out of context to the extent of probably getting embarrassing to the nation. May I really say that the expression "secondhand man" when used here tonight, I am sure, must have been intended not to be taken seriously. But if we are going to start labelling those who represent us abroad as secondhand men, we ought to appreciate that these things are going down in the

[DEPUTY SPEAKER]

*Hansard* that is read everywhere, and our social expressions and the mood of the House at the time certainly cannot be pictorially reflected on the pages of *Hansard*. So, may I appeal to Members of this House please to be more restrained.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (Gwarzo East) : I have profound respect for women folk and I am here to say—

**An hon. Member** : How many wives has the hon. Gentleman ?

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** : Four.

**An hon. Member** : Four big ones ?

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** : We do not classify them by rank : first, second, third, because if we try to do that, how far and where shall we end ? Women are women, first-class.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** : In support of my argument, if one looks at the moral and social side of it, I think there is no reason why we should import secondhand clothing into this country. Nigeria is a vast and important country, and in this respect, we in Northern Nigeria do not want secondhand clothing to be imported into this country. All the second-hand clothings being imported at the moment come from the United States of America. One can never find the type I am wearing at the moment and the imported clothes. People who encourage the importation of secondhand clothing into this country should be ashamed of themselves because these clothes are not fit for people to wear. Anybody who calls himself a nationalist should not dress in a foreign dress. I have never seen the Member for Bende East (*Professor Esera*) in European dress, but he wants importation of secondhand clothing into this country to continue.

There is a motive behind the importation of secondhand clothing into this country because—

**The Minister of Finance** : I think that hon. Members will agree with me that I might as well reply briefly to the points made in order to save the debate on this issue degenerating. (*Interruption*).

My hon. Friend, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) wants to know why I devoted three hours to secondhand clothing and did not allow him to move his Motion. I want to tell my hon. Friend that I have no

power to prevent him from debating his Motion, nor have I any power to allocate the number of hours for the debate.

**The Deputy Speaker** : Order, order ! May I remind the hon. Minister that he is speaking as Minister of Finance and not as Leader of the House. Would he please address himself to the point at issue ?

**The Minister of Finance** : Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was only replying to my hon. Friends' interjections.

I would like to speak on three points on this matter arising from statements made. Firstly, I have given assurance to my hon. Friends that I am specifically interested in this matter, and I would have thought that the assurance I gave them was sufficient. I said that the matter is being further investigated and I would have thought that with that assurance, my hon. Friends would have been content, excepting, perhaps, that they would like to show to their constituents, like everyone of us, that they have championed their cause and that they were thrown out. In any case, they will be thrown out in this particular Motion.

Now, having said that I would like, perhaps, at this time, to speak both as Minister of Finance and as Leader of the House. There are two statements made here which I would like to give in terms of serious advice to hon. Parliamentarians. We are responsible people. As the Deputy Speaker once said tonight, our statements here are read all over the world. The *Hansard* is bought and mailed to all parts of the world. We are responsible for the development of this country. Whether people say what they like outside or not, I think we should know what we are doing. You cannot condemn a thing without giving any substitute. Somebody has said that we are protecting the interest of the U.A.C. and the tycoons. I have no reason to protect U.A.C. at all. As a businessman, I would like to compete with U.A.C. But we should realise that some of the statements we have made in our anxiety to catch the headlines and to talk about the temper of the country blindly, have driven some of our brothers and sisters out of employment at the moment. Even if we have the finances, have we the technical know-how ? If we open factories now, can the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) go and work there as the Engineer ?

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban) : Can the Minister of Finance himself ?

**The Minister of Finance** : I cannot. I do not condemn things unless I can give my people something else.

My Colleagues and Friends from the East talk about the U.A.C. The U.A.C., with our N.C.N.C. Government of the Eastern Region, is establishing a textile factory of £5 million in Onitsha. Can hon. Members do that ? Are we encouraging these people now ? The people know that times have changed and they are changing with the times. They bring their money, they bring the technical know-how and they try to establish industries here. We ought to be grateful to them.

**An hon. Member** : It is worse.

**The Minister of Finance** : It is not worse ; what I am saying is true because if U.A.C. will come to Owerri to open an industry there tomorrow the Member for Owerri East (*Chief D. N. Abii*) will be happy. Does anyone think they will come if we abuse them ?

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East) : The Minister of Finance has not brought them.

**The Minister of Finance** : I do not bring them ; the Government of the Eastern Region will bring them.

What I am saying is that we all agree that there had been monopoly in a lot of these things in the past, but since times are changing and the people are trying to help us, please we the representatives of the people should be chary in condemning them. Look at produce buying and retail or wholesale trade. In a lot of the villages there were shops before and we could walk in and buy little things. Can we do so now ?

**An hon. Member** : They have closed down.

**The Minister of Finance** : They have closed down ; that is not a credit to us. This is given in terms of advice.

The last point that I want to make is the remark made by the Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*), that we are buying second-hand ships, that we are buying secondhand this and that. I want to tell my hon. Friend that we Nigerians should be proud of our

achievements. Nigeria is not buying anything secondhand. When we want to build our roads, we build first-class roads ; when we want to build our ports, we build first-class ports ; when we saw that the D.C.3 planes were of no use, we condemned them and bought Fokker Friendship. Are they second-hand ?

**An hon. Member** : No.

**The Minister of Finance** : And when our naval boats were not good, the Minister of Defence condemned them and we sold them as scraps and we are building new ones. They are not secondhand, and it is no use condemning his own country to the world that everything we are doing here is secondhand because he read a proposal in the press that the Nigerian Shipping Line wants to buy some second-hand ships. The ships have not been bought. But all the ships that have been named after prominent Nigerians are not secondhand ships ; they are new ships, for the hon. Member's information. I would not allow any hon. Member here to try to make a statement that could be misconstrued outside Nigeria to mean that we are buying secondhand things. We are not buying secondhand things ; we are not creating any secondhand industry. All the industries that are erected—go to Ikeja and see wonderful works there. Go to the Eastern Region, go to the Northern Region and also to Apapa—all those factories are not secondhand factories.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West) : What of Ahoada area ?

**The Minister of Finance** : I am speaking quite seriously.

**Mr Elenwa** : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance has mentioned Ahoada and we have not got any textile industry in Ahoada.

**The Minister of Finance** : I would say this for the education of my hon. Friend, that this Government and the entire Regional Governments are not interested in secondhand matters. We are interested in producing the first.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : On a point of order, the Minister of Finance knows that the U.P.P. is secondhand Action

## [CHIEF AKIN-OLUGBADE]

Group and the N.C.N.C. in the Western Region is secondhand N.C.N.C. So, you have secondhand coalition government in the Western Region.

**The Deputy Speaker:** That is a point of information.

**The Minister of Finance:** I do not know what the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is talking about. All I know is that he is a secondhand legal adviser of the defunct Action Group.

**Chief Akin-Olugbade:** I am not the legal adviser.

**The Minister of Finance:** Chief Rotimi Williams was the original one; the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) is the counterfeit.

Finally, I want to say that I am grateful to hon. Members of the House for contributing to this debate, absolving me and the Government from the unwarranted attacks that have been levelled against us for no just cause except that we are doing our duty by protecting the financial interest of this country.

With these few remarks, I move that the Question be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 7) Order, 1963 (Legal Notice No. 136 of 1963), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th January, be approved.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)  
(No. 8) ORDER, 1963

**The Minister of Finance:** I rise again, and this time to move the third Motion standing in my name, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order, 1963 be confirmed.

This Order exempts splints and skillets imported by approved manufacturers for the manufacture of matches and match boxes from duty.

Splints and skillets are the raw materials required by the match industry; they are however not available in Nigeria at present. The

object of this Order, therefore, is to enable the local manufacturers of matches and match boxes to obtain these materials duty-free until such time as they are available locally.

Such a measure is in line with the accepted policy that newly established industries should be encouraged so as to enable them to stand on their feet.

The House may, however, rest assured that this concession will be reconsidered as soon as these articles are available locally.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 8) Order, 1963 (Legal Notice No. 154 of 1963), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th January, be approved.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)  
(No. 9) ORDER, 1963

**The Minister of Finance:** I rise to move the fourth Motion standing in my name, and this time, That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 9) Order, 1963 be confirmed.

There is nothing new in this Order; it merely amends an earlier Order so as to ensure that only bags and sacks of textile materials with dimensions not exceeding 44" by 28" and which are required for the packing of goods and produce manufactured, grown and processed in Nigeria should be admitted at the rather low duty rate at 2d each.

Prior to this Amendment, this concessionary rate of duty applied to all bags and sacks of textile materials irrespective of their dimensions. This, however, had enabled importers to import textile fabrics sewn up loosely in the form of bags at the low rate of duty applicable to bags and sacks. These bags were later unsewn and sold as textile fabrics, and since the duty on textile materials is higher than that on bags and sacks, the transaction involved a loss of revenue to Government. The present Order is therefore aimed at closing the loophole, and I am sure it will have the support of every Member.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 9) Order, 1963 (Legal Notice No. 155 of 1963), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th January, be approved.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)  
(No. 10) ORDER, 1963

**The Minister of Finance:** I now rise to move the last Motion standing in my name—

That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 10) Order, 1963, be confirmed.

This Order before the House raises the duty on aluminium plates and sheets, etc., from 10 per cent to 20 per cent *ad valorem* and is designed specifically to protect a home industry.

The 10 per cent duty on these commodities had previously been made necessary by the fact that these items were not available locally. They had therefore to attract such a low rate of duty as sort of encouragement to the local aluminium fabricating industries.

To-day, the position has changed. Messrs Alcan Aluminium of Nigeria is now producing these items at Port Harcourt and has an eye on producing all that the country requires in respect of these commodities. This, however, is not possible with the existing 10 per cent *ad valorem* duty, and the Tariff had to be amended so as to provide an atmosphere suitable for local production.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): We do hope that the hon. Minister of Finance has made necessary investigations. In asking this House to approve this increase in Customs Tariff, it is stated that the raw materials which are being produced in this country are sufficient to carry on the work, the main reason being that the industry is local. Well, there is a big difference between a local industry and an industry owned by Nigerians. Some of these so called local industries are owned by foreigners with huge capital. I am not saying that the Minister of Finance has not taken the necessary precautions. But we do hope that

he has made investigations to find out that these so called local industries have substantial Nigerian interests in them.

For instance, we have just passed that of matches and match boxes. We all know that Nigeria is very rich in timber. Anybody who does not know that, when he comes into this National Hall, will realise that Nigeria is rich in the best of timbers in the world. And, particularly, we get the best of timbers in Sapele area. And I know that match boxes are made out of timber. But we are now imposing a higher tariff on imported ones so that the so called local industries can thrive. We do hope that the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Economic Development will use all experts in their Ministries to see to it that these local industries have substantial local or native interests.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): Some people do put the cart before the horse. This is purely an item for business people. I do not really want to talk, much on this item because the Minister of Finance is acting in good faith. But I think that hon. Members should realise the difference between locally-made goods and those that are imported. Why do we manufacture them here? In the first place, they give employment to our people who work in the industries. In the second place, we do not pay freight rates to convey them here, and things like that.

But the question we have to ask ourselves is this: Why is it that while imported cement, for example, is sold at 3s, those that are manufactured at Nkalagu or at Ewekoro are sold for 10s or more? They will come to tell us that they borrowed £2½ million and they are paying 6½ per cent interest. But here is the Minister of Finance who approves what they call tax relief for a certain number of years. In this country, where this industry is being carried on, we still buy the produce of the industry at a high price. Why is it that the business is not left open so that anybody who can will go into the industry and then there will be competition?

If, for instance, this cap (*referring to a cap on his head*) was imported and was selling at 2s-6d, but now that we manufacture it, it sells at 2s, then I will say that when this cap was imported from England, Czechoslovakia

[MR ODULANA]

or from Germany I was buying it at 2s-6d, but now that it is being manufactured in Port Harcourt, Enugu or anywhere in the North it is sold for 2s.

We have the Star Beer as another example. What is the advantage we get from these locally manufactured goods? This is what I want the Minister to look into. If anybody who wants to come and establish an industry is allowed to do so there will be no doubt that we will be benefited because they are not going to import their labour here. They can only bring their technical know-how. Where do we enjoy our locally manufactured goods while we are going to buy these things at the rate we are buying imported goods? This is what I want the Minister to consider.

**The Minister of Finance :** I do not want to reply to the last point made by the Member for Ijebu South (*Mr Odulana*) because that does not come within my competence. If he wants to raise that matter he can do so with my Colleague and Friend, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry.

But I would like to assure him that if people invest their money in industry, as he knows (he himself has mentioned it), they must get their money back somehow before they can reduce the amount. Take a purely Nigerian owned industry like the Nkalagu cement industry or the Ewekoro cement industry. Investment there must have to be recouped within a period of time, as the hon. Member knows. And one important aspect of it which he refused to mention, and which I am sure he knows, is the question of balance of payment position and the use of our raw materials. So that a factory that is established cannot be looked upon only from the point of view of the benefit which will accrue to the ordinary man in the street from the price reduction. This is important but it will come. And in case of companies like the Nkalagu cement industry, hon. Members will see that they have been enlarging with their profits. They enlarge their factory; they employ more people and produce more cement. And the more cement factories we can open in the country the better, because when there is local competition between one another, the price will be reduced.

But what I am trying to say is that we should not give the impression that unless Nigerians participate in any industry, that industry will not be protected by Government because that was the view some hon. Members have been given in the past.

We do not want companies to come here, and when they come they want Nigerian *Afamaco* directors and pay them £300 per annum. These directors have no share or interests in the industry, they are only appointed directors in order to protect the companies. We want good businessmen to come here, bring their investments and establish here. After all, when a factory is established here it cannot be rooted out and carried away. It remains here in Nigeria.

At the same time we want to encourage investors to have confidence in Nigerian participation, and to encourage Nigerians and bring them into the companies, so that the Nigerians too, will be able to learn how to run companies.

**Mr A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** We do not want them as nominal directors.

**The Minister of Finance :** No. That is what I called *Afamaco* directors. *Afamaco* directors are nominal directors, and we do not want that. We want that Nigerian participation should be proper and that Nigerians should be allowed to buy shares in those companies as shareholders and as directors, so that they can have a voice in the affairs of the company and so too, as good Nigerians, whenever they feel the company has made enough profits and they have got back their money they either ask that the money be ploughed back for the development of the factory or for the development or establishment of other factories.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 10) Order, 1963 (Legal Notice No. 156 of 1963), a copy of which was laid before this House on 8th January, be approved.

*And it being after 6 p.m., the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (10).*

*Adjourned accordingly at fifteen minutes to eleven o'clock.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Friday, 10th January, 1964

The House met at 9 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Members—

Mr F. U. Mbakogu

Mr Balang Balami

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance :** I beg to move, That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sitting of the House), the House shall sit at the following times—

- (a) from 9 a.m. till 12 noon ;
- (b) from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and
- (c) from 9 p.m. onwards.

**The Minister of Transport and Aviation** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I beg to second.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu South East) : I do not rise to oppose or to embarrass the Government but putting things like this would sound like what the Conservative Opposition declared on the Labour narrow majority government in 1945, when they said that the Government would harry them to death.

I think we could have started this sitting may be one or two days earlier so that these things could be handled with all convenience and soberness ; but as it is now we have been accustomed to sitting only from 9-12 noon on a Friday and to say that we are going to sit from 9-12 noon, 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and from 9 p.m. until whenever we can finish, I fear might act the other way round. It might have the effect of some sort of duress on the Members. The result might well be that Members who do not want to come back at night might rush through things thereby using 5 to 10 minutes for subjects that might have taken one to two hours to deliberate, just to make sure that we do not come back at every inconvenient hours. I think that in future rather than put things in

this awkward way, it might be more judicious to have the House meet about one or two days earlier.

We appreciate that some of our colleagues may be entering into some sort of religious obligations after to-day, and so we must have to conclude this business. However, I still think that that difficulty could have been cleared if we had started a little earlier than we did.

**The Minister of Finance :** I am very grateful to the last speaker for not wasting much of our time this morning and for "concluding", "winding up" and "finalising" his speech at a record time. I think that indicates his willingness that we should go on with our work expeditiously.

We have no intention of rushing the House but all the same I feel we should be businesslike and hon. Members, even the last speaker who is the Deputy Speaker of this House, will agree with me that most hon. Members were absent last night. (*An hon. Member : At awkward hours !*) What does the hon. Gentleman mean by awkward hours? There is nothing awkward in coming to work for your country and for what you are being paid. If Members continue to be absent, I shall bring in a Motion asking that their salaries be reduced by 10 per cent !

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 5 (Sittings of the House), the House shall sit at the following times—

- (a) from 9 a.m. till 12 noon ;
- (b) from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m., and
- (c) from 9 p.m. onwards.

## SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION

## (1963-64) BILL

**The Minister of Finance :** I beg to move, That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64, the debate on the Second Reading of the Second Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stage of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the third time.

**The Minister of Transport :** I beg to second.

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South) : I do not want to oppose the Motion but just to make a few observation. I have read through the Supplementary Estimates and there is not much there for discussion and I only hope that such a Bill or Estimate in that form should be presented to Members well in advance before the day of discussion. It is not proper to have the Estimates on hand just a few days before or on the day of discussion.

With the consent of this House, all I am asking the hon. Minister of Finance is that we should be allowed to have these things especially the Estimates well in advance.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That, *this day*, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 64, the debate on the Second Reading of the Second Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) Bill, when resumed, shall be concluded, and the Committee stage of the Bill shall be taken and concluded and the Bill read the third time.

## ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

**The Minister of Finance :** I beg to move,

That, this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

**Mr Akwivu :** It is the usual thing that at the last days at school, school children welcome a good holiday but I think, Sir, that since the life of this Parliament we have in effect been trying to devolve a practice whereby we have meetings at given intervals. I would like to suggest that (*Interruption*).

**Mr S. U. Idiog** (Ikot Ekpene North East) U.P.P., *crossed the carpet to the N.P.C.*

**Mr D. S. Udo-Inyang** (Opobo North) A.G., *crossed the carpet to the N.P.C.*

**Mr B. U. Ukpog** (Ikot-Ekpene Central) U.P.P., *crossed the carpet to the N.P.C.*

**Mr Akwivu :** What has now happened probably re-enforces my asking that the House do not adjourn *sine die*. It is very unlikely that some Members will have time enough to settle in their new seats before getting ready for adjournment. I would like to suggest that in the future, the seasons and periods of our meeting should be made a little more definite so that Members can well plan their business and make allowance for meetings of the House.

**Mr R. N. Muojeke** (Awka Central) : What I am concerned about is to find out whether we are rising to-day or not... All I want to say now is to ask the Government to see that all the Questions that are listed but are not answered in the House before the House rises be answered by the respective Ministers concerned.

Most of these Questions are very, very important and unless they are answered, the Members will not be encouraged to ask any further questions. In saying this, I have in mind the question of what the Minister of Transport might have been doing about transportation on the River Niger at Onitsha. Even though we are given a bridge, this question is still very important to the people crossing from East to West and there is a Question listed about this that has not yet been answered. As far as I am concerned my question has not been answered, and I shall be glad if the question is answered and sent to me.

Again, yesterday Members were saying that there were important Motions which we would like the Government to see passed. I have in mind this question of hire purchase Motion. There is also very important legislation dealing with company laws and another dealing with friendly countries. These have not been passed in this House and I want the Government to take action to see that the questions on them are answered, and the answers should also be sent to respective questioners.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central) : A few years ago it was about to be the general practice that whenever the House adjourned *sine die* Members were made to know when the House would meet again. This practice has been abolished now and for the past three Sittings we have not been seeing anything of that sort. I therefore wonder whether we are not going to continue to discourage a general practice which is well known to the Members of this House.

We would like the Government to inform Members, whenever a Motion of Adjournment is coming before this House, when it intends to re-assemble the House again. I know that cases might crop up which might make it impossible for the Government to re-assemble the House sooner than the time

[M. GUSAU]

already given; all the same I think it is proper for the Government to let Members have an idea of when the House is likely to be re-assembled.

I therefore appeal to the Government to re-introduce this good practice which it intends to abolish.

I beg to support.

**Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe):** I do not quarrel with this Motion asking us to go back to our respective homes to-day, but what I want to do is to ask Members to come here to-day at 9 p.m. so as to allow us to finish our business, even if the business will take us up to 4 a.m. the following morning.

I know that it is because of the Ramadan festival that the Government is rushing us up in order to enable our Northern Members to go back home and make arrangements for the fast. But we still have tomorrow which is Saturday and I think that our Northern Members can afford to stay for only one more day in Lagos instead of the Government asking Members to come here at nine o'clock in the night and leave here at two or four o'clock the following morning. This point should be considered.

If we can do the work that can be done up till twelve noon to-day and allow people to go to Mosque to pray, I think that should be enough for the day. We can then come back tomorrow, start from nine o'clock in the morning and then have the other business left behind to-day dealt with. I would not like the Minister of Finance to ask Members to come here at nine in the night and then wait until any time because we want to rush the business of the House. The Minister should consider this and allow us to come back tomorrow instead of coming back here in the night.

**The Minister of Finance:** On a point of information, I want to give one assurance to my hon. Friend, the Member for Epe (*Mr Tobun*) that when he comes here at nine o'clock tonight the bar at the Refectory will be opened for Whisky.

**Shettima Ali Monguno (Kaga Marghi):** I only want to think aloud, and in doing so I want to say that I wonder why Parliament assembles only on Wednesdays and also adjourns only on Fridays.

**The Minister of Finance:** This is because Wednesday is the birth day of the Member for Kaga Marghi (*Shettima Ali Monguno*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That, this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### PENSIONS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande):** I rise to move the Second Reading—

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja):** On a point of order, Sir, Standing Order No. 3 states quite clearly that Mr Speaker shall allocate a seat to each Member.

The Member for Ishan West (*Chief Dame-Oboh*) is now in the House and has gone to take a seat not allocated to him, crossing from one party to another to sit on a seat not allocated to him by Mr Speaker. He is now sitting on a seat allocated to the Member for Egbado South (*Mr Ajibola*).

**Mr Speaker:** I will investigate that and give my ruling later.

**The Minister of Establishments:** I rise to move the Second reading of the Pensions Bill. The purpose of this Bill is two-fold. Firstly, it is intended to apply the same conditions regarding the payment of pensions earned by Government servants before they transferred to Statutory Corporations, to those civil servants who are transferred to employment which has been declared "Approved Service" under the Pensions Act.

An example of this type of service is employment with the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company. Secondly, the Bill is intended to amend the Pensions (Special Provisions) Act 1961 to allow the increases in pension authorised after the Mbanefo Revision of Salaries to apply to pensions earned before that period, but which had not actually been put into payment.

Hon. Members will recall that when the Statutory Corporations were established it was the policy of Government to induce as many officers as possible, who were serving in the departments which the Corporations replaced,

to transfer to the service of the new Corporations. In order to provide an added inducement to these officers, and to ensure that by their transfer they did not place their previously earned pension in jeopardy, legislation was enacted which allowed for the payment of their benefits up to the date of transfer to the Corporation if, for any reason other than as a result of being sentenced to a term of imprisonment by any competent court, they left the service of the Corporation in circumstances not entitling them to any benefits from the Corporation.

This provision has since been limited in its application to a period of 3 years after the establishment of a Corporation as it was considered that this was a reasonable period in which an officer could settle down and finally decide whether or not he was willing to remain in the new service.

At the present time officers who have transferred to "Approved Service" do not enjoy similar privileges. Although an officer who finally retires from employment which has been declared "Approved Service" receives a pension in respect of his earlier service with Government, this pension is only paid if he leaves the Approved employment in pensionable circumstances. If the service of the officer is terminated for any reason which does not entitle him to benefits from his employers it is not legally possible to pay him any retiring award in respect of his earlier Government Service.

I feel sure that hon. Members will share my view that this is unfair and I am therefore now seeking their support in order to amend the present legislation in order that officers in this category will enjoy the same privileges as their colleagues who transferred to the Corporations with regard to the right to receive the pensions which they have earned during their Government service.

Section 1, paragraph 2 of the Bill is self-explanatory. It simply ensures that an officer cannot draw the pension earned in respect of his previous Government service at the same time as he is being employed in any undertaking which has been declared "Approved Service".

The second section of the Bill is concerned with what is really a technical amendment. After the revision of salaries as a result of the

Mbanefo Report in 1959, the Pensions (Special Provisions) Act was passed to allow increases to be paid on pensions which were in payment before 1st September, 1959. The wording of this Act precluded these increases from applying to pensions which had been earned by this date, but which had not been put into payment.

Those persons adversely affected by this were officers who had transferred to the Statutory Corporations or to employment which had been declared "Approved Service" before this date. If these persons had been drawing the pensions before this date they would have received the increase. However, as the pensions were in effect frozen and would not be paid until the officers subsequently retired, the increases could not legally apply. This was clearly not the intention of the Act and I seek the approval of the House for this defect to be remedied.

This Bill is concerned with no wide sweeping changes but is aimed rather at the correction of minor anomalies. I do not consider that hon. Members will find it contentious and I hope it will enjoy the unanimous support of this House.

I beg to move.

**The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule):** I beg to second.

**Mr O. C. Ememe (Aba South):** I have one important point to raise about this Pensions Bill. It is well and good to say that those who are old enough in the service of the Government should be given pension. This is quite good but it appears to me that the Government is neglecting the fact that with increased health system in this country and increased ability to live long as we have been enjoying the fruits of our good labour people are forced to retire earlier than they expect because of these regulations. Many people who are pensioners to-day are languishing in their homes in order to be able to train their children who are in the colleges with the meagre amounts earned from their pensions.

I do not see any reason why people who are able to work should be forced to retire so early. Even though we are in a position to improve the manpower of this country, it is deteriorating in the sense that we are sending very many people out of service because of pension.



[MR EMEME]

Another point is that this pension system is being used as a means of victimising certain sections of the people particularly those whom we do not like politically. This point is very important and I have in mind some of those people in the Police Force and those in the Government service who are definitely sent out of service when they are due for promotions or when they are due to occupy very important positions in the country.

This is very awful and I think the Government and those in power know very well that they have been misusing this pension system. I have in mind again certain people who are in the Police Force who happened to come from some tribes have been forced out of their positions and they have been replaced by other people.

**The Minister of Establishments:** The Member for Aba South (*Mr Ememe*) is misleading the House. My Bill is non-contentious and it is understood. All I intend to do is just to ask the House to approve that I give some rise to those who deserve it.

**Mr Ememe:** I have made my point that pensions should not be used as a way of victimising a certain group of people. It has been used and many people have been complaining very bitterly about this pension.

Another point is that certain departments have been completely neglected as far as promotions are concerned. When certain men are really due for these promotions they are forced to go on pension. I have in mind those who are serving in the Inland Waterways. There has been no promotion for the past three years. Very soon many of these people will be sent out of service with practically nothing in their hands to feed their children. This is not in the best interests of those people who have served the country for many years.

I am calling on the Minister of Transport to see to it that this anomaly is taken care of. Those who are due for promotion should be promoted before they go on pension. If they are not promoted from their meagre salaries they cannot train their children.

It is high time that the Government evolved a system whereby pensioners should be aided in a way. If a person has served for about 10 years, 15 years, or 20 years and he retires and he has not got sufficient money in his hands

to train his children, I think it is wise for the Government to evolve a system whereby the children of such a person may be assisted.

If a person has served the government for so long a time and retires with such a small amount of money as pension, the government should at least give his children special scholarships. The government knows very well that it is not in a position to give all the children in this country free education and as such should give loans to pensioners, so that they could improve their standard of living. This is very important and I think the government should consider it.

I beg to support.

**Mr S. D. Lar** (Lowland East): This Bill is progressive and non-controversial and I think we should not dwell at length on it. I would like to disagree with the hon. Member who said that this Bill is aimed at victimising a special section of the community.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh** (Abaja and Ngwo): On a point of order, I think that the hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill do not seem to have read it. The Bill makes provision for giving pension to those people who are transferred to the Federal Public Service or the Regional Public Service or the Corporations which services are known as "Approved Service." Members merely left this point at issue to debate on what is not in the Bill.

**Mr Lar:** As I was saying, this Bill is a very progressive and non-controversial one and I do not intend to dwell at length on it. I think, at this moment, I will not be irrelevant or out of order to say that for purposes of this Bill, we should not only restrict it to the civil servants alone, but should consider some of our hon. Members who have been serving this country for a long time. In this connection, I have in mind people like Sarkin-Dawaki Maituta. He must be given pension. Some of our Ministers who have been serving this country for a long time should be pensioned, because it would be unfair if they are left out. Similarly some of our hon. Members who have been in this House for a long time should not be forgotten.

The other point is that many pensioners have been complaining bitterly about delays in paying them their pension. They have been unnecessarily delayed and the Minister

should look into this matter. I know some people who have been delayed for about two weeks or more before they could obtain payment of their pension. The Minister should particularly do something about this, after all these people had served us well and it is because of their good services that they are pensioned. We should not forget their good services to this country in the past years.

I am of the opinion that we should not give pension to the people of this country, if I am allowed to say, at an early age. I would therefore suggest that no person should be entitled to pension unless that person attains the age of 65-70. What we are doing now is to pension people when they are 45 or 50 years. At this age they still feel very strong and what the government pays them does not satisfy them. They are always not contented with what the government pays them and as such they go about looking for jobs. This is why I am asking the government to increase the pensionable age from 65 to 70 years.

I beg to support.

**Mr L. O. Tobun** (Epe): Much as I support this Bill, I would like to ask the Minister of Establishments to realise that I have been elected into this Parliament before him and since then other Members and myself have been championing the cause of pensioners.

The Minister of Establishments has said that this Bill is specific and that we should support it, and an hon. Member with a Master of Arts' Degree supported him. But the Minister of Establishments should realise that we are just going through the Second Reading of the Bill and as such, we must say our minds. This is the time we have the opportunity to express our minds fully on this Bill. We should be given the opportunity to say our minds because when it comes to the Committee Stage, nobody will be allowed to say anything much.

What I am trying to say however, is that whether a man is pensioned at the age of 10 years or 100 years does not matter because the government has a principle regulating pensions award. If a man has served for fifty years and is sick, will he not go home and cure himself? Should he be allowed to die in the service?

The next point I am making is about the Morgan Commission of Inquiry. The Morgan Commission has been asked to look into the salaries and wages structure of workers in this country, and I would like to know when a statement will be made as to whether pensioners were included in the terms of reference of this Commission. This is because pensioners as well as workers go to the same markets. Pensioners are old and cannot move about to look for money. They have no other means of getting money with which to live well.

Hon. Members here can play about with money whereas the pensioners cannot, and yet we expect them to buy their food from the same market that workers and Ministers patronise. If they are not considered for a salary revision, I think the type of world they will live in, will not be a suitable world for one to live in. To live a pensioner must go to the same market so as to buy what to eat, and without adequate money he will surely die. If a pensioner is paid only £2 or £3, how can he buy something in the market and live comfortably. I therefore urge the government to include pensioners in the terms of reference given to the Morgan Commission of Inquiry.

**Mr J. U. Udenyi** (Enyong North): I rise to support this Bill and in supporting it, I must say that the Bill is commendable, comprehensive and reasonable. We think also that what one seeks for, before joining the Public Service is pension and as such I am suggesting that government should make pensions much more enticing, so that when one retires from service one would get half of his previous salary as pension. This is because when one joins the government service, one works diligently and carefully in order to get pension. The compulsory retiring age should be 45 years in order to allow the younger people to get employment because there is too much unemployment in the country.

The importance of this Bill lies on the appointment of people in the Federation. If a young man joins the civil service, what is his aim of joining the service? The aim is to make money and what he will aim at when he retires is to earn a high pension so that if a bribe is given to him, he will not accept it, when he thinks of his pension. Thus, bribery and corruption would be checked in Government Departments if pensions were increased.

[MR UDENYI]

There is no department of Government where there is no bribery and corruption in this country. It depends on the man who is working in any particular department. If he agrees, he will accept bribe and if he does not like it, he will not accept it. Therefore, anybody who tells me that there is any Government department where there is no bribery and corruption is a blatant liar.

My own conviction is that there is no department where there is no bribery and corruption. There is temptation for bribery in any department.

I think this Bill is non-controversial and so I fully support it.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

PENSIONS BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—(INCREASE OF PENSIONS BASED ON SUPERSEDED SCALES OF EMOLUMENTS).*

**Mr C. A. Emenogha** (Onitsha North) : On this Clause, I would like to say something about what others have not touched upon. I am saying that in this Clause there should not now be any cause for the Government to speak about subsequent employment. Subsequent employment shows that the person retiring is still fit and agile and able to work and it is ridiculous that a man should be retiring when he is still full of energy. To retire at the age of 55 years is alright.

I understand it is only here in Nigeria that people are asked to retire at the age of 55 years. But it is at this age that a man is at the prime of his life and is faced with great financial problems. Some of his children may be in the universities, and others in the secondary schools and if at that time he is made to retire, he has to find it very difficult to live on the lower income.

Again, it may not occur to the Government that this early retirement of civil servants breeds corruption, because if a man knows that he is retiring at a time when he is faced with financial problems, he will do all he can do to accumulate as much money as possible in order that he can manage his own affairs when he has

retired. I am, therefore, suggesting that the retiring age should be increased, as in other countries, to at least 65 years.

One hon. Member has said that a worker should retire at the age of 45 years. I am sorry to say that this is most nonsensical because at that age it may be that he is just beginning to gather experience and I must add that it is not by kicking people out of business that opportunities can be created for the younger generation. It is our responsibility to create more industries, increase our trade, expand our market and train the young people to be willing to use their hands to do any kind of work. I think if we do this, there will be enough work for everybody in the country. I am saying that the Government should take note of this and fix the retiring age throughout the Federation at 65 years.

*Clause 2—(INCREASE OF PENSIONS BASED ON SUPERSEDED SCALES OF EMOLUMENTS)—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 3—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(THE MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS).*

**Mr N. D. Ukah** (Owerri North East) : This Bill has been acclaimed as a progressive and non-contentious one. I have to say that it is so and to add that the extensions which are sought here should be made to cover all grades of workers including teachers.

One other point is that the scales on which these pensions are based are superseded scales ; those scales were very low ; the calculations should therefore be increased to make it comfortable for the old men who draw the pensions. Also, the Minister should see to it that payments of these pensions are made very easy because it is very painful to see old men lining up for days after days, and weeks after weeks in order to get their pensions. That is the time when we should do all we can to help make things easy for them.

The final point I wish to make on pensions is this that our efforts should be to make salaries really living-wages. People do not enjoy life when they have the facilities to do so. It is essential that when they grow old, they are put on the so-called senior service scales

and in a very short time they are given pensions. The economic system of this country should be well-ordered that people should enjoy good salaries for giving their maximum output of work.

I am appealing to the Minister in particular and the Government in general to look carefully into these conditions and improve the overall conditions of service including pensions.

I beg to support.

**Mr E. A. Mordi** (Asaba East) : I just want to associate myself with what the Member for Owerri North East (*Mr Ukah*) has said in connection with teachers. I agree that the system whereby a different constant is used in calculating the pensions of teachers is most discriminatory. Teachers ought to be regarded as a class of people who are working not only for the voluntary agencies who have employed them, but also indirectly for the Government of this country. That is my view.

**An hon. Member** : The Minister said that the reward of teachers is in Heaven.

**Mr Mordi** : Yes, I agree that the reward of teachers is in Heaven, but they are not living in Heaven.

I think that very serious consideration ought to be given to the teachers in this respect. If I may add a few words to this, people have said that it is necessary for people who are in the service to retire at the age of 65 years. I wonder if the same thing could not be extended to the Members of this House so that people who reach the age of 65 should cease to sit as Members of Parliament.

I beg to support.

**Mr J. D. Odeunmi** (Egba North) : I would like to speak briefly on the right of an individual who has worked faithfully for the Government to be granted his due gratuity or pension. I think on the ground of ill-health there is no question as to the right of an individual to get his gratuity or pension, whichever he is due for.

With your permission, Sir, there is a complaint which I would like to refer to and that is the case of one Mr K. Akinola who was a Porter at the Senior Station Master's office, Ebute Metta Junction. I would like to give a brief biographical sketch of this man as regards his association with the Railway Corporation.

**The Minister of Finance** : On a point of order, here again, I would like to draw the attention of the House and that of the Member for Egba North (*Mr Odeunmi*) in particular to the fact that he had ample opportunity of raising this matter during either the Second Reading or at the Committee Stage. But to advocate for a single individual during the Third Reading, I must say with respect, is out of order.

**Mr Speaker** : I think this matter is a detail that should have been discussed in Committee.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.*

SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION  
(1963-64) BILL.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON SECOND READING  
(9TH JANUARY)

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and I have a few comments to make. There is provision here for the Electoral Commission. I would like it to be placed on record that we congratulate the Federal Electoral Commission for the excellent work it has done in the delimitation of constituencies in the Mid-West. This Commission was very very impartial in its work.

If people who are opposed to my views have gone through the report of the Commission they will see that various political parties submitted memoranda for the consideration of the Commission and in a majority of cases, no party was sided. The Commission took an independent decision and in cases where it supported the views of a political party, it was inevitable and other parties had to be compensated one way or the other.

I see no reason why people should cry at the top of their voices that the Commission did not do well. I think it is those who wanted to manipulate the constituencies who shout at the top of their voices. So, I say that the Commission should be congratulated for its work.

With reference to the pending elections in the Mid-West, I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to ensure that the elections are free and fair. Already there is an established fact that certain political parties have concluded arrangements

[MR OBI]

to import from across the river. I would like to assure them that we are no cowards. We are prepared to meet them on their grounds but if we want peace we must be prepared for peace and if we want war we must be prepared for war. (*Interruption*).

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order !

**Mr Obi** : The point I am making is that there are people with guilty conscience who would not want me to talk. Certain political parties have concluded arrangements to import thugs from across the river.

**An hon. Member** : Who are they ?

**Mr Obi** : You want me to mention them, they are members of your party and that party is going to be defeated by the Mid-West Democratic Front at the next elections.

I am therefore appealing to the Prime Minister to ensure that the elections are free and fair and that the Police should be instructed to be impartial in the discharge of their duties because there are certain people who feel that they are relations of the policemen and would like to influence them to benefit themselves. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : Will hon. Members please refrain from interruptions.

**Mr Obi** : There is a provision for Members' travelling allowances and a provision also for Parliament. We are not told how many times Parliament will meet between now and the Budget Session in order to make allowance for those who will come. So I hope that whatever is left out of that provision will be well used for other things. There is no hope of Parliament meeting before Budget Session. That is just the point and I would like to say that it is unfair to Members of this House to be asked to pay telephone charges when they are here. Ministers and other people do not pay and we would like this to be removed. I would like whoever is in charge to see that Members no longer pay for the use of telephone calls when they are here.

I beg to support.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : Before I make my point I would like to remind the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr M. C. K. Obi*)—(*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : I have got a message from the Reporters that hon. Members are drowning

the speeches of speakers and that the Reporters cannot hear. Will hon. Members please confer only, if they have to, in undertones ?

**Dr Okeke** : Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I hope the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*) will listen to my remark because he made the point. He should listen. There is a warning I would like to deliver to the N.P.C., our allies here and that warning is about the people who are talking about thugs. Thuggery is foreign to the N.P.C. and now that our friends from the U.P.P. have come in to join the N.P.C. there must be a warning that this thuggery is not sold to the N.P.C.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South) : Central (*Dr Okeke*) was referring to the speech made by the Member for Afenmai East (*Mr Obi*). Mr Obi enjoyed the abundance of the Action Group. He crossed over to the purgatory of the U.P.P. and now he is in the paradise of the N.P.C.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order ! That is not a point of order.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East) : On a point of order, the Member for Egba South (*Chief Akin-Olugbade*) knows that as far as I am concerned, money is no consideration.

**Mr Speaker** : Order. Hon. Members should please refrain from making provocative speeches.

**Dr P. U. Okeke** (Onitsha North Central) : I have seen that a sum of £57,000 has been voted for the Parliament and we have been called upon to approve this amount. While I am not disputing the figure, I want to make a few observations on the conditions of living in the Parliament buildings at Victoria Island. Certain things must be said. We are supposed to be the leaders of the nation and we are not only going to lead in politics, but we are also going to lead in standard of living, in good healthy living in order to show examples to the world and to our people here in this country.

Foreigners use the facilities which we have in the Victoria Island Flats once in a while and any American or British or Russian citizen who comes here would like to visit the buildings where Parliamentarians live. That very word, "Parliamentarian" rings a bell. Now when he goes in there, what does he see ? Immediately he walks in there, he surveys the

surrounding and sees tin cans, garbage here and there, smelling gutters, unkept lawn, refuse burnt here and there on the lawn and the grasses growing on the lawn which are supposed to look good. That is his first impression.

If he goes again to the Boys' Quarters where our drivers and cooks are supposed to live and sleep and take their birth, he sees nothing but stench and odour. Hardly can anyone put his foot in any part of the Boys' Quarters in that Victoria Island Flats.

Sometime ago a sum of £15,000 was voted to change the texture of the floor of these flats. Nothing has been done and we have been told that soon, it will be done. I do not know where the money is and I do not know what is happening with the Public Works Department.

I want to make a few more observations about our flats. When a Member breaks a tumbler or a cup, he is asked to pay for what he has broken. But replacement of what has been broken takes about six months and when the Member comes back after he has paid for what he has broken, he is forced to drink without a cup or a tumbler or eat without a plate !

**Mr Speaker** : This is a very small detail which should only be discussed if at all, at Committee Stage. I do not think this should be allowed in the Second Reading of the Bill.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : If the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr Okeke*) has nothing to say on this Bill, he should save us some headache and let us make progress instead of discussing broken plates or broken glasses.

**Dr Okeke** : I think that the class distinction which we are having in this country is an irony of fate because here we are Floor Members and there here are the Ministers. Anyone who compares the homes of these Ministers with the flats in which we live, will understand what I am saying. In fact, there is a dichotomy between the standard maintained by the Ministers and the standard maintained in the paltry two-room flat which we are given. When we come here to complain, we are told that we are talking nonsense. When you have touched a man's stomach and his health, you have touched him in a very, very sore spot.

The sum of £80,000 has been earmarked as a supplement to the expenditure incurred during the last Census. If we are going to use this census for the next election, I am pleading with the Government to see that everything possible is done to codify all the figures and release the figures in time so that if there is going to be any squabble or any discussion or any amendment to the figures we have ample time to do those things between now and August when the next election comes. If we are—

**An hon. Member** : Are you the Prime Minister ?

**Mr D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East) : On a point of order, the Member for Onitsha North Central (*Dr P. U. Okeke*) stated that next election is in August. If we follow the Constitution, the Constitution says five years after the first meeting, the first meeting was in January, 1960.

**Prof. Kalu Ezera** (Bende East) : I would like to touch only on two very important points—and very sensible ones. This concerns the expenditure on Lagos University Teaching Hospital, subvention. I want to inform Members of this House that the Lagos University Teaching Hospital which, to all intents and purposes, can be characterised as a multi-million pounds white elephant is in many respects in trouble.

Now, Members are aware of the various complaints of nepotism, extravagance, squandamania, which arise in the Hospital and we are concerned in this House because we vote for it. I am therefore appealing very seriously—this is very serious—to the able Minister of Finance because I know he is very very meticulous about the way Federal funds are spent, and Federal funds being spent in the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, in fact, are not well spent. They are being squandered. Therefore, there is need for a probe into the finances of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

Now, there is another point in connection with the Lagos Teaching Hospital. I owe no grudge ; I make this request very sincerely. The size of this country is 373,000 square miles and we have two Teaching Hospitals within a radius of 90 miles that is to say between Lagos and Ibadan. This is grossly unfair. The whole vast North is empty ;

[PROFESSOR EZERA]  
the whole vast East is empty. I am therefore suggesting to the Federal Government very seriously that in order to minimise wastage a Federal Institute like Ibadan should be accepted as pre-clinical (those who are doctors of medicine here will understand what I mean). Then we build a clinical teaching hospital at Kaduna, we build another one at Enugu. Then this would intersperse the country better than to locate one at Ibadan and one at Lagos and yet the one at Lagos is not well run.

**Mr A. F. Odulana** (Ijebu South): On a point of order, my point of order is No. 26 that is "debate in Parliament". This Professor a Member of this House, is bringing pettiness into this House knowing that he is a Professor in a University. He is not criticising his University, he is criticising Lagos University that the subvention given to that University is not well spent.

**Prof. Ezera**: The point is clear that I am making. As a matter of fact, the second point I would like to make here is that the autonomy allowed the Lagos Teaching Hospital by this House, I think, was an error. The Lagos Teaching Hospital should be an off-shoot of the University of Lagos. At the moment, this operates as an autonomous body completely divorced from the University it is supposed to serve. I think that it needs looking into. I know the Minister of Finance knows what I am talking about.

The point, however, is that I want to emphasize that there is need for a probe into the Lagos Teaching Hospital expenses. It is full of squandermania and then there should also be clinical Teaching Hospital at Federal expense at Kaduna, at Enugu and at Benin to serve the new Mid-West Region. This is important if we must attune ourselves to one Nigeria. One Nigeria does not mean 90 miles radius two Teaching Hospital located and 346,000 square miles radius, nothing. Is this fair? If the Government can take this into account, I think the money spent on this white elephant will no longer be badly spent.

At the moment it does seem that there are serious complaints—very very serious complaints—not only of squandermania but of nepotism and corruption and what have you. This thing should not exist in an institution of higher learning and I find it myself difficult, coming from an institution of higher learning,

to make this charge. But I feel sure, from sincere motive, that I want the rest of the country to be served with similar institutions but if you can do so on clinical level then that would save a lot of money.

The Federal institution at Ibadan will serve as a pre-clinical institution and then the others can serve as clinical teaching hospitals. In that respect, we shall have saved a lot of money in this country and all parts will then be served properly.

Without taking this point beyond necessary boundaries I think there is need to emphasise that we can strongly build the unity of this country by taking into account the various needs and aspirations of all parts, without prejudice to our friend the Member for Lagos Central (*Mr Dosunmu*) and without prejudice to others, I think in fairness these amenities should be fairly divided. And that is the only way.

A man in Calabar, the man in Lokoja, the man in Maiduguri will look up to Lagos as a source of inspiration. When he knows that all these amenities come from Lagos, it tightens the unity of this country, but if the Federal Government washes its hands—oh! it is a regional affair, you don't mind—then the Federal Government will continue to be a stranger—a stranger; I repeat in the rural areas. And then the unity of this country will not become a reality. So we want one Nigeria in reality, in theory, and in practice. One way to emphasize this unity is by building these various Federal institutions in all parts of the country.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): In rising to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I should like, in the first place, to congratulate the Federal Government for its generous contributions to the new Mid-West Region both in cash and in kind. This is a clear indication that the Federal Government is determined to help any Region for the interest of our unity.

I would like to comment on the N.C.N.C.'s claim that it spear-headed the struggle for the creation of the Mid-West Region. That is a fact granted. But it is the N.P.C. which stood firm and resolute while the N.C.N.C. later

developed cold feet on this matter. Nobody can dispute this. Therefore, the N.C.N.C. should no longer go to the Mid-West and mislead the people there.

Another point is this. I appeal to the Federal Government to see that the elections to the Mid-West House of Assembly will be held in a free and fair atmosphere. All political parties should be given full chance to campaign freely, without any fear of victimisation.

And I am appealing to the Nigerian press and radio too. I understand that there is a tendency on the part of the press and radio to suppress the activities of the M.D.F. in the Mid-West. I respect the Nigerian press and I believe that our press is free and independent. But I appeal to the press to give the M.D.F. fair and full publicity.

I am humbly suggesting that it will be wrong very wrong, for the Federal Government to allow the interim Administration to continue in office up to the time of the elections. It is my candid opinion that the present Administration—the Administrator and his Commissioners—should be suspended at least seven days before the elections.

**Professor Kalu Ezera**: On a point of order, my hon. Friend, the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Sarkin Bai*) is noted for his scandals. I want to challenge him that the N.P.C. should change its name from the Northern People's Congress to the Nigerian People's Congress so as to merit a place in the Mid-West.

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai**: The point raised by the Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) is quite irrelevant. But it is not for me to answer him now; I shall answer him later.

Unless the Federal Government suspends this interim Administration the people in the Mid-West will feel that the N.C.N.C. is already in power so that they will be automatically voted for. Take away the out-riders from Chief Osadebay and the people will know that the Region belongs to all parties. I am speaking very seriously and the Minister of Finance (*Chief Okotie-Eboh*) who comes from Warri himself can see to my point if he is sincere in his deliberations.

**The Minister of Finance**: And if my hon. Friend will agree, I suppose that he is not advocating that the Prime Minister should sack me before I go and campaign.

**Alhaji Sarkin Bai**: All those people in the N.C.N.C. now who come from the Mid-West, if they want to be re-elected in the next federal elections, should cross over now.

**Several hon. Members**: To where?—To that Side?

**Mr A. Akomolafe** (Ekiri North East): While discussing these Supplementary Estimates, I just want to bring to the notice of this honourable House one or two points which we have mentioned in this House times without number, and which matter very much towards the name of this our country. One of them is the experiences of many of us at our immigration offices, particularly at the Ikeja Airport.

The latest of these experiences came not quite a month ago. I do not very much mind what happens to me personally. But I was in the company of a number of non-Nigerians, foreigners, and the experience those foreigners had in the hands of inexperienced young clerks who were put at the immigration counter was very awful. It was disgraceful and distasteful and it really does much to harm the prestige of this country in the outside world.

Two of these foreigners had to say to me that they had been in almost all countries of the world but they had never had any experience as bitter and as disgraceful as they had here. Hon. Members may not want me to give the details of what I saw but I think it is very disgraceful and I want to appeal—

**The Minister of Finance**: It is a lie; I was there.

**Mr Akomolafe**: This is not a lie and the Minister was not there.

**The Minister of Finance**: I was there on one occasion with the hon. Gentleman.

**Mr Akomolafe**: He was not there. And I am speaking quite soberly. I do not want to be interrupted. This is very serious. I am sorry, Mr Speaker, but I was badly interrupted.

I want the Minister of Internal Affairs to look into this. People who will be put at our ports, either at Ikeja airport or at Apapa seaport, should be experienced gentlemen. You want to be to the immigration offices of other countries of the world and see the kind of courtesy, the experience which you meet. It is a great contrast to what one finds at Ikeja or at Apapa. It certainly does not give credit to this country. We are really losing face by it.

[MR AKOMOLAFE]

We should not mince these matters. If any Minister or the Leader of the House, or anybody else is personally interested in this he should declare his interest in some other way. But I think that this really affects the name and the glory of this country and should not be taken lightly.

My second point is this. I do not know who is concerned, but I would wish to say that either the Minister of External Affairs, or the Leader of the House, or anybody else, or the Prime Minister himself definitely needs to look into our embassies abroad. I have seen myself one or two of these embassies where there are insufficiency and inadequacy of personnel. I have met one or two Ambassadors myself who have complained that several times they would write letters to this country and for three or four months there would be no reply. And then it comes to the point that in the United Nations or the World Health Organisation, or any of these international organisations where we also have our own share of the money, and we have our own representatives, this money is shared off and we cannot get our share. We are losing badly. I think we ought to look into it.

I want to appeal to either the Prime Minister or whoever is in authority to kindly supplement the staff of our embassies abroad, especially those in key places like New York and other places, and make sure that when it comes to organisation or arrangements about international affairs we are surely not losing the place we ought to hold.

My third point is the one which I am sure some hon. Members are looking into and this is about the traffic in Lagos. As long as we continue to talk piece-meal about the problem of traffic in Lagos we are just postponing the evil day. There is scarcely any hour of the day when one travels in Lagos now that one does not waste hours. If this country is becoming an important one, and businessmen and industrialists are coming to this country, every minute matters. If a man has an urgent business to do in any country and within two hours he cannot get to his destination he can lose thousands of pounds by the delay.

This means that the Six-Year Development Plan we have for Lagos roads will have to be reorganised. If we have to build overhead bridges and roads, by all means let us do so. At

present, the roads are few and narrow and a good number of them are absolutely impassable. I think, therefore, that whatever arrangement is being made for traffic in Lagos needs some amount of re-organisation.

**Chief D. N. Abii** (Owerri East): I rise to support the Bill now being put before the House. In doing so, I wish humbly to support the statement already made by one hon. Member in this House by asking the Government to institute an enquiry into the Lagos Teaching Hospital. I am supporting it because the rumours have now gained grounds. If there is any institution in this country where tribalism has been made to be the weapon of everybody, it is in that Teaching Hospital.

Can the Speaker imagine that throughout the whole departments of that hospital not one Northerner is being employed? Everybody who is working there belongs to one special tribe. Sir, I am not a man who will say something that has no sense in it. When the Government institutes an enquiry, it will be noticed from the result that what I am saying is absolutely true. I do not want to dwell very long on this, but I would suggest that the Government set up an enquiry into the administration of the Lagos Teaching Hospital.

Secondly, I want to thank the Government regarding the arrangements being made in the Mid-West. The elections will soon come, we welcome it; and I want to seize this opportunity to thank the Leader of the N.P.C. and the other Members of the N.P.C. for their new attitude in 1964. The Leader has expressed a wish that all in this country should accept themselves as brothers and sisters; he made this statement in the course of the speech he made last night at Ibadan. This means that during elections people will be free to move about to wherever they like, talk to their brothers and sisters in the form of a campaign and wait patiently for the results. Threats should not be used in campaigns.

This year has started with a blessing. May I tell my colleague the Chief Whip of the N.P.C. that he should be prepared to take the results of the Mid-West elections in good faith. There is no need boasting about it. The Mid-West elections should certainly be accepted now before we go into it unless the Mid-Westerners are nothing but fools. If they are and I know they are not.

**Mr M. C. K. Obi** (Afenmai East): On a point of order, the election in the Mid-West is for the Mid-Westerners and I must say that the Ibos should not be foolish enough to come and campaign there.

**Mr Speaker**: That is not a point of order.

**Chief Abii**: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for saving me from the hon. Gentleman opposite. However, I repeat that the Mid-West election results should be taken just as they come.

This country will certainly attain unity if all the parties, the N.C.N.C., the A.G., the N.P.C., the U.P.P. and whatever party they may be could accept the people of this country as brothers and sisters. We shall then move along to other parts of the world as a united Nigeria. I am emphasising this so that it will reach our leader in the North, our respectable Sardauna of Sokoto, that this issue discussed here should be accepted by everybody.

Let all the leaders of this country accept it and let there be no law forbidding people from the South or the North from campaigning wherever they want to. In future, we shall show ourselves as God-fearing men and our elections shall be free and fair.

I beg to support the Bill.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyarma** (Hadejia North): I wish to speak on this Bill—the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1964.

I wish to do so, in order to give my support, being fully aware that no amount of money is too much expended as far as it is for the promotion and development of our Federal Republic. In the explanatory memorandum, this Bill makes supplementary provision for the service of the Federation for the years 1963-64 and provides for the repayment of advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

While my purpose is to support this Supplementary Expenditure, I feel it sound and appropriate to honour through my comments in this honourable House, the appointment of our respected Prime Minister, the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar, as the first Chancellor of the University of Ibadan. I congratulate him, his colleagues, his Government and the people of Nigeria as a whole, for the attainment of such dignity.

Secondly, I wish to voice out here in this very important Parliament, that as representatives of our people in democratic Federal Republic of Nigeria, we have all rights and freedom to echo, express and place before the Parliament and our Legislatures, the needs, the requirements and the urgent needs of the people in our constituencies. Having the opportunity, Sir, I wish to express my electorates' mind and seek for urgent attention.

I wish to stress that our Constituencies need more water supplies and our electorates complain bitterly that the urban water supplies seem a failure. This is discouraging and also disappointing.

The pipe borne water supply at Hadejia and Mallam Maduri is inadequate, lacking in good working plants and short of tanks, and the situation needs urgent attention. The position there now is, if there is water to-day there will be thirst tomorrow, as a result of which people are complaining and they want the position improved. I am therefore calling on the Government to give us better and more plants, additional tanks and taps to ease the situation.

I also wish to suggest that in view of the shortage and inadequacy of water in Mallam Maduri, the Nigerian Railway should be approached to give a helping hand by connecting their own water pipe to that of the town. I make the suggestion because I know that the Railway Corporation have excessive supply of water for their locomotives. If this approach fails, the Government could make use of the spare bore holes already sunk at Hadejia and Mallam Maduri to remedy the situation.

Another point I want to make in support of this Bill is that Hadejia and Gumel are sister emirates of one Division, the Northern Division of Kano Province, which is within easy reach from Mallam Maduri. I therefore think that the province of telephone services, linking Mallam Maduri with Gumel is essential.

The other point I would also like to make refers to the economic products of this country, particularly groundnuts of the current harvest. We all know that groundnut is our leading cash crop. I wish to say that the—

**The Minister of Finance**: On a point of order, quite honestly, I do not see what groundnut season has to do with what we are discussing.

**Mr Speaker :** Actually, the Member for Hadejia North (*Alhaji Ganyarma*) has been discussing Regional matters—water supply, groundnuts and the rest of them.

**Alhaji Ganyarma :** What I am saying is that the Department of Produce Inspection finds it difficult to grade our groundnuts as 'special' because of their falling standard which was due to lack of good decortication. Although the Produce Inspection Department complained of decortication, the farmers themselves complained of the wearing out of decorticating machines and some of the farmers at some other places complained of the over size of K38 seeds of nuts produced to cope with their machine holes.

I have drawn the attention of the Government to this so that the standard of our products can be improved in order to fight against any fall in our economy. We must try and maintain the good standard of our products to be able to compete with any product from any part of Africa or the world. We do not want our farmers to lose and we should help them to produce better products.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the Members who have seen the light, crossed the rubicon and reached our paradisaical party, the N.P.C. by crossing the Carpet. I hope there will be harmony among Members to be able to seek the interest of our great Republic.

**Mr J. O. Olaore (Oshun North East) :** In supporting the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I have a very few observations to make and this is in respect of the protection which should be given to our local industries.

At present we have some industries springing up in Nigeria, and it augurs well for the future of this country that such industries wherever and whenever they exist should be adequately protected, because they form the basis of the economic greatness of this nation. At present there are some of our local industries facing keen competition from imports from abroad.

In this respect I would like to mention specifically the cement industry. I know that at present the output in all the cement factories in Nigeria cannot meet the total need of the people of this country, but it is expected that within three to four months, with some

extensions being made in Ewekoro, the cement factory there will be able to give us such an output that will satisfy our need in Nigeria.

**The Minister of Finance :** What has that got to do with the Bill in question ?

**Mr Olaore :** It has something to do with the Bill because the Bill covers a wide ground.

The second point I want to make is that we have one cement factory springing up in Sokoto soon, one sugar factory is coming up in the Mid-West, another factory coming up in the East, and yet we have a lot of cement being imported from abroad to this country.

**The Minister of Finance :** Is the Member for Oshun North East (*Mr Olaore*) a cement trader ?

**Mr Olaore :** I am not, but the Government should not because I am not a cement trader fail to see that these industries are well protected.

There is one important thing that Members do not know. Most of the cement being imported into the country is produced by the Government of the countries importing them to Nigeria to take away our money. I am therefore appealing to the Federal Government to see that this is looked into.

**An hon. Member :** But the cement is being imported under special licences.

**Mr Olaore :** At present it is being imported under special licences, but as soon as possible the withdrawal of such licences and the banning of importation of cement to this country should be seriously considered.

I come now to the question of nails. We are now manufacturing nails in Nigeria. Unfortunately nails are still imported to Nigeria to compete with nails produced in Nigeria.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye (Benin East) :** On a point of relevance, I do not see how all these discussions come into the discussion on items of contingency. I therefore think that my hon. Friend, the Member for Oshun North East (*Mr Olaore*) is absolutely irrelevant.

**Mr Speaker :** I do hope that Members will direct their speeches to the provision of the Bill.

**Mr Olaore :** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I think something has been said in the Capital Expenditure Estimates about trade and industry

and that is why I am making mention of this particular subject. I have to say—just once more that the question of enamelware should also be considered. At present we have several factories manufacturing enamelware. While I am not suggesting that duties on these manufactured goods should be reduced, I am saying that the importation of enamelware to this country should stop.

Again, I would like to say something on the question of grants. The £7 million given as state grant by the Japanese Government to the Federal Government should not be used as a means of relaxing the restriction on importation of Japanese goods to this country. Japanese Government is still repentant as far as buying Nigerian goods is concerned. I would like the Federal Government to be as strict as ever on this particular aspect so that by and large we might convince them to buy our goods.

Finally, I would like to say something about this Electoral Commission. Much work has been done by this Commission. I hope what happened during the last elections will not be allowed to happen in the next elections whether in the Mid-West or at Federal elections. During the last elections some people drew curtains around and asked some chiefs to sit near the ballot boxes washing the feet of some members and tried to earmark which political party they should vote for.

**Several hon. Members :** Where is that ?

**Mr Olaore :** You all know it. If it is declared a secret ballot, the secrecy should be maintained. It happened in Lagos during the last Town Council elections. Many voters had to go to private places to cast their votes unmolested and unseen by anybody.

**The Minister of Finance :** I do not think that hon. Members have much to say on this matter. As far as I am concerned, I have listened to so many speakers and I would like to reply to one or two important points. I think my hon. Friends will have the opportunity in the Committee Stage to express their views.

The Member for Bende East (*Professor Kalu Ezera*) and the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) have made some points and I would like to reply as follows. I shall have thought that if a professor of a university had something against an institution where his compeers are

employed he would take the trouble of talking to them so that he could get the facts from them. But I think it is not professional etiquette for somebody to attack a member of his profession openly and in a place where such an individual has no right of replying.

I want to say that for all I know the Dean of the University Teaching Hospital in Lagos is a man of a very high character and he happened not to belong to the tribe that perhaps the Member for Bende East was referring to. Professor Thomas is not a Yoruba, he is an Itsekiri from Warri. I cannot understand how Professor Thomas's tribe can occupy all the posts in the University Teaching Hospital. Itsekiris are very few and we come from a Special Area. How can people from a Special Area be in the majority in the Teaching Hospital ?

**Chief D. N. Abii (Owerri East) :** I never mentioned the name of Professor Thomas here. What I said is that there is tribalism in that University Teaching Hospital. Professor Thomas need not be the fountain of tribalism.

**The Minister of Finance :** I am very happy that my hon. Friend the Member for Owerri East is retracting and he should obviously withdraw because whatever statement is made about the Teaching Hospital must reflect on the Head of the Teaching Hospital.

I want to inform the Member for Owerri East that if there is any charge of squandermania it is unknown to my Ministry. When the Hospital was short of funds I asked that the matter be investigated and it was investigated and my officials found that there was no squandermania in the Hospital and that the Appropriation that was made was not sufficient.

**Chief A. F. Odulana (Ijebu South) :** On a point of order, I have no objection to the Lagos Teaching Hospital being mentioned. The University itself is full of Ibos and the Head is an Ibo too. This is absurd, we are not going to take that from him at all.

**The Minister of Finance :** All I want to say at this stage is that there is no squandermania in the University Teaching Hospital and that their Accounts were investigated before we supplemented the funds. But if there is a question of corrupt practices on the lower level I think the Minister of Health will

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make it a point of duty to see that that is properly investigated and I shall inform him to do so accordingly.

My hon. Friend the Member for Bende East also spoke about one Nigeria. I think that this would be an appropriate occasion for me to appeal to all of us who are looked upon as leaders of thought in this country. This question of pointing accusing fingers at people on the basis of tribalism should be stopped. (*Applause*). I am not talking in favour of anybody. This question of unity in this country must mean more than lip service to all of us.

How do we look in the eyes of the world when we are talking and mentioning our tribes? We should simply stop it. When a Parliamentarian comes here he should speak as a Nigerian. I would like to appeal to the people on all sides to refrain from making statements that would annoy people outside this House.

I would also appeal to the Newspapers as well to stop fanning the embers of tribalism in this country. Wherever we can trace it, whether it is by a Yoruba man, by an Itsekiri man, or by an Ibo man or by a Fulani we should condemn it. If it is practised by me let my own people be the first to check me.

Another thing is the election in the Mid-West. Why should the people use the Floor of this House to campaign for election in the Mid-West. Let the people of the Mid-West go to the polls on their own merit. People should not attempt to use the election in the Mid-West to knock the heads of the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. together. (*An hon. Member: Are you afraid?*)

I have been in politics for twelve years and perhaps the hon. Gentleman has only been in it for twelve days. I have done twelve years and somebody who has only done twelve days is talking!

With regard to the question of election, I am positive that the Federal Electoral Commission would conduct the elections in the Mid-West with every sense of responsibility and impartiality. The Parties that are contesting the elections should go in there to campaign. It is the Mid-Westerners that are contesting the elections and not the Easterners, Westerners or the Northerners.

I must say that this is one Nigeria and anyone who wants to go to the Mid-West to campaign should go there whether he is an Ibo, Hausa or Yoruba man. Everybody should go to the Mid-West to campaign for his party. The Mid-West is not there for only one person, it is for everybody. For instance, we are now in Lagos and not in the Mid-West.

**Mr Briggs (Degema):** On a point of order, I just want to know if "*Mallam Fasasi*" will go to the Mid-West to campaign and if so, what party he will be campaigning for?

**The Minister of Finance:** I do not blame the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*). He is fortunate to have a dead brother who has bequeathed something to him with which to change his coat. I should be writing to the Probate Registrar to examine the account of the Member for Degema because this change is too sudden!

I would like to say again that the Mid-Westerners will welcome all political parties to campaign in the Mid-West. We will welcome all Nigerians to come to the Mid-West and feel at home and everyone in the Mid-West will be looked upon as a brother and not as a stranger.

I would like however to warn that people should not use tribalism to campaign in the Mid-West. Political parties should go there on their own merit. That is the type of thing that we want in this country. We do not want to run a country where people say "One Nigeria" just for lip-service and when they come to grips with the problem they try to do other things.

**Mr J. E. Ukueku (Urhobo South):** I am sure the hon. Minister of Finance realises that the Administrator of the Mid-West—Chief Dennis Osadebay—announced in Zaria that he wants Easternisation, Northernisation, Westernisation and of course Mid-Westernisation. Therefore, the Minister should not come here to talk another thing.

**The Minister of Finance:** I am too old in this game to be fooled by new comers.

**Professor Kalu Ezera:** In point of fact, this new comer has not been issued with a copy of the Standing Orders and as such he does not know the rules of the House. He does not know what the Standing Order is like. Will you please, give him a copy of the Standing Orders, Mr Speaker.

**The Minister of Finance:** I have noticed again that some hon. Members are absent and they are those who have been advocating ten days sitting—Members like the hon. Gentleman from Ekiti North East (*Mr Akomolafe*).

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja):** I have always been present.

**The Minister of Finance:** Yes, the hon. Gentleman comes because he lives in Lagos. He can go into his Chambers and make money as a Q.C. whilst other people are here working.

**Mr Ogunsanya:** I do not make money; I am not a Minister of Finance!

**The Minister of Finance:** Oh? Now, an hon. Member spoke about traffic congestion in Lagos. It is true that there is traffic congestion in Lagos and I agree with him to a certain extent that something should be done. All that should be done is the arrangement that is being made by my hon. Colleague and Friend—the Minister of Works—to build a second bridge for Lagos.

But bridges are not built overnight. He has to take time to design and to prepare it. I cannot agree with the Member for Ekiti North East when he complains about the attitude of investors and so on. Let him go to Rome, London, New York and Paris, and he will see congestion on their roads. They are worse than Lagos. The investors came from places where congestions are worse, but I cannot for that reason say that we should not relieve the congestion of traffic on our roads. We will do our best.

**An hon. Member:** We can use helicopters.

**The Minister of Finance:** No, it is the Action Group that uses helicopters. We do not use it.

Now, the Member for Owerri East (*Chief Abii*) speaking on the issue of elections, said that people should be allowed to go about talking to all sorts of people. He started to categorise and said that people should be allowed to talk to our brothers and sisters. I do not know whether one should allow the Member for Owerri East to talk to one's sister.

**Chief D. N. Abii:** I am basing my point of order on irrelevancy. We are not speaking about sisters and brothers.

**The Minister of Finance:** But the hon. Chief said so himself.

**Chief Abii:** I said that the Leader of the N.P.C. had declared that people should regard themselves as brothers and sisters in this country and therefore we should be allowed to go anywhere to speak to our brothers and sisters. That is what I said.

**The Minister of Finance:** That is precisely what I am saying. I can allow the Chief to speak to my brother, but to allow him to speak to my sister will be a calamity! (*Laughter*). In this connection, I am issuing a double warning to all of us who have sisters to be careful of campaigners who want to talk to our sisters.

**Mr D. M. Gbolagunte (Oyo South):** May I know if I can talk to the Minister of Finance's wife when campaigning to her. If I cannot speak to the sister, can I speak to the wife?

**The Minister of Finance:** People who have no home training can easily show this. I suppose the hon. Member is a teacher.

**An hon. Member:** He is a bush teacher.

**The Minister of Finance:** He is really a bush teacher.

Finally the Member for Oshun North East (*Mr J. O. Olaore*) has spoken about the alleged £7 million from Japan. I want to assure him that when that publication was made, my hon. Colleague and Friend who was in the area at that time heard about it and quickly sent a cablegram to say that he never negotiated such a deal. You can be assured that we in the government are quite watchful of the conditions of trade between Nigeria and Japan. It is a one way traffic and it is a bad one. We are not going to be bribed by any overtures of any grants. Nigeria should be strong enough within a reasonable time to develop her economy and be able to give grants to other countries.

Nigeria is rich and as such, we want people to come here and trade with us. As a matter of fact, I said in the World Bank that we are no more as such, interested in grants and loans. We want trade, we want better prices to be paid for our groundnuts, cocoa, timber, rubber and every other commodity we produce. This is what we want so that we can trade with other parts of the world as equals. I also

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asked in the World Bank why these countries have more than enough and be able to give us loans. We want to know the secrets of their economics so that we too, within a relatively short period of time, may be able to have sufficient ourselves here and be able to give grants to countries like Japan.

**Chief O. B. Akin-Olugbade** (Egba South): On a point of information, we observe that the hon. Minister of Finance has evolved a new idea. That was the statement I made at the Hanover Fair in 1959, that we want trade not aid, and this at a time when he was running around collecting loans.

**The Minister of Finance**: At least I do not squander the loans which I have collected, but my hon. Friend and Member for Egba South (**Chief Akin-Olugbade**) is building a house now on a loan he got from a bank that I know of. He is not talking about that.

Finally, I am very grateful to my hon. Friends for their contributions so far and I move, That the Question be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(ISSUE AND APPROPRIATION OF £45,430 FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND FOR CONTINGENCIES FUND AND FOR SERVICE OF 1963-64).

**The Minister of Finance**: I beg to move the following Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely—

Clause 1, line 16, after the word "Act" insert "1963".

I beg to move.

**The Chairman**: Order! Under the Standing Orders, we have to postpone the clauses until we have discussed the schedules.

HEAD 60—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

*Question proposed, That £80,000 for Head 60—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Ibrahim Gusau** (Sokoto West Central): In supporting this provision, I should like to refer to a statement which was made by the Member for Owerri East (**Chief Abii**) in connection with the election in the Mid-West for which this amount is now being voted.

I was surprised to hear the reference made by the hon. Member to the leader of the Northern Peoples Congress yesterday. Now and again, the leader of the Northern Peoples Congress, the North itself and the Northerners are deliberately misunderstood. As I said, the North, its leader and the Northern Peoples Congress always appear in their true colours.

The statement made by the Sardauna of Sokoto is not new but the trouble is that we are deliberately misunderstood, in the newspapers, and on the radio and that is why differences occur in this country. The statement which the Sardauna made is not new. Nobody, not even a leader or an ordinary person like myself, likes even to imagine disunity in this country. The statement of the Northern leader is not new, but the trouble is that we are misunderstood deliberately and I appeal that the change of heart which is supposed to have been made by the Sardauna should also be made by people in certain quarters.

With all the criticisms showered on the Northern Peoples Congress, we have supporters from the East, we have from the West and we have from the Mid-West, so that the name of the Northern Peoples Congress does not matter. Everybody can stand election as a Nigerian even without mentioning any political party. The name of a particular party does not, therefore, come in.

I believe that it is not a change of heart on the part of the North or the leader of the North that matters, but it is a change of attitude on the part of people from certain quarters. I believe also that if we are all sincere to ourselves, we should see that deliberate misunderstanding of the North should be discontinued. I say deliberate misunderstanding because Nigeria is a vast country and there has never been a time when we in Northern Nigeria, including the leader of the North and the Northern Peoples Congress, disregard the culture or tradition of any particular area outside the North, and that is what we want the members of the communities who are not from

the North to understand. We in the North, as I said earlier, always appear in our true colours and that is what we want other people to understand and to follow suit.

**Chief D. N. Oronsaye** (Benin East): Due to the nature of some of the points I want to make on this Head, I would like to move that the Head be reduced by £100.

Before I make my points, I would like to make some preliminary observations. The hon. Minister of Finance has stated, quite rightly, that the £80,000 plus the first £20,000 earmarked for the Mid-West elections will later be refunded by the Mid-West Government. This is quite right; it is a correct statement. This advance (because that is what it is) must be repaid. It is a loan or an advance.

This, therefore, brings forcibly the question of ability to pay into discussion. As a new Region which was carved out of another Region, it is necessary to have the share of the assets and liabilities of the former Region. Ability to pay this advance and other advances which have been given should be taken into consideration. This has been mentioned on the Floor of this House and is already on record in the *Hansard*. Of course, those who know what is public finance will know that this is the correct position. The money has had to be repaid.

But nothing has been done (nothing to my knowledge has been done) to bring about the shares of the assets and liabilities of the former Western Region.

**The Chairman**: Are you speaking on Head 60?

**Chief Oronsaye**: I am speaking on Head 60 because yesterday when the Minister of Finance was introducing the Second Reading of the Second Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) Bill, he mentioned quite rightly that the £80,000 together with the £20,000 (all making £100,000) being spent on the Mid-West elections is an advance to the Mid-West Government. I am not quarrelling with this statement, but the Mid-West Region had to be carved out of the Western Region. That is the point I am making. We are aware that all the developments which took place in the former Western Region, all the buildings and everything went to one side and so the sharing of those assets and liabilities, whenever it is done, is what we are asking for.

We paid tax more than any other people in the Western Region. The buildings and other assets which are fixed in the present Western Region are assets on which we have a right to claim at least the current rate of interest, that is bank interest at 4 per cent *ad infinitum*. I merely sound this as a warning. When it comes to the sharing of the assets and liabilities we will have the experts to look into the matter and this money will have to be extracted from the present Western Region.

Somebody stated this morning that he wanted the elections to be free and fair. Unfortunately, the hon. Gentleman from Afenmai (**Mr Obi**) is not here. I would have liked to speak to him directly, but as he is not here I will make my points all the same.

**An hon. Member**: Address Mr Speaker.

**Chief Oronsaye**: I will address Mr Speaker, of course—

**Mr Odulana**: Does the Member for Benin East wear the robe he is now wearing to school?

**Chief Oronsaye**: This robe is not worn to school. It is not to be worn by everybody. It is only to be worn by people of a certain class.

We have noticed that the sum of £100,000 is required for the elections to the Mid-West House of Assembly. This job is now to be undertaken by the Electoral Commission of the Federation. I have some advice to give in view of what led to the elections being conducted by the Federal Electoral Commission. We know very well—this is the place where we have to make the point—that at one stage somebody was appointed by the Mid-West Interim Administration but somebody or a group of people boasted quite loudly.

It is unfortunate that some of the people who discussed with members of a mushroom political party did not know that some of them are disciples of *Bacus*, and so in certain quarters these disciples of *Bacus* gave out everything they had discussed with people no matter their rank. Somebody boasted that the person appointed by the Interim Administration would not do the work of delimitation, he would not do the work of conducting the elections. Now as things happen, these boasts came to pass. The man appointed was removed and the job was later given to the Federal Electoral Commission to handle.



[CHIEF ORONSAYE]

We felt that there was nothing wrong in asking the Federal Electoral Commission to handle these elections because we felt that according to the Constitution, their position is sufficiently insulated from influence from all angles. But, unfortunately, some people boasted that they could influence the Federal Electoral Commission to make certain changes in the delimitation which would not appeal to anybody.

A few days ago, as Members will know, something happened in the case of Asaba Division and Aboh Division. But that is not all. If any Member who knows the area will look at the delimitation report, he will find that for instance, my own constituency now contains two parts which have no common boundary at all. We gave evidence that in delimiting Akugbe we ought to have Abiekula, Igbanke plus a part of Izzi because a part of Izzi is the common link between the two. That was our evidence and we drew a plan and everything to show it. But here it is now in the delimitation report, Abiekula and Igbanke are put together and they have no common boundary. It is just like putting Victoria Island with Ikeja as one constituency! It is there in the report.

Mr Odulana : We have already approved the Delimitation Committee report here and there is no need setting the hands of the clock back. The Member for Benin East (Chief Oronsaye) should now talk on this money matter that we are considering.

Chief Oronsaye : That is what I am talking about. I am talking about the way that money is going to be spent and that it should be spent wisely for the people. It can only be spent wisely if it suits the people it is intended to serve.

What worries us is that these things which happened did not happen ordinarily to anybody's surprise. They happened after some people had boasted. That is what worries us. If nobody boasts that they are going to influence people to do so and so, then—

Mr M. C. K. Obi : The original intention was that the Mid-West should have 65 constituencies, but then people boasted that they were going to make it 68.

Chief Oronsaye : I am happy that the Member for Afenmai East (Mr Obi) is back because he is one of those boasting. The Mid-West Interim Administration, which is the present Government of the Mid-West, actually recommended that there should be 68 constituencies

An hon. Member : It was a rumour.

Chief Oronsaye : How can that be a rumour when the Government has arranged it. What Government has arranged one or two people will go behind to use their influence to change it from 68 to 65. I am only giving this warning that the Electoral Commission will find the Mid-Westerners quite prepared to co-operate with it, but these boasts must be stopped and the members of the Electoral Commission should be told through the medium of the *Hansard* and others, that they should not confide in anybody, no matter what parties they belong to, because when they confide in these people that this is what they are going to do, they will tell everybody. Some of them, as I have said, are disciples of Bacus.

The Mid-West have sufficient educationists, doctors, lawyers, politicians and engineers who will teach anybody commonsense if he wants to be funny. What we are asking for is fairness.

Let me look at another constituency in Afenmai Division. I was at Agbede for four years as Headmaster of a school and I know the whole area as I know my fingers. Now, in delimiting that area it was carved out just along the road in order to suit one particular person. We know who that person is.

Mr Obi : I happen to come from Afenmai Division and the Delimitation Committee did not take the advice of any party and that is the truth.

Chief Oronsaye : As I have said everyone is watching very closely. We will co-operate with anybody who comes to do a really good and conscientious work, but we will strike a deadly blow on anybody who comes to misuse his power in the place.

The elections which are due to be held very soon will require quite a number of officers. Some people have already boasted that they will control the Electoral Commission and see to it

that only their nominees are appointed as Presiding and other officers. We know for certain that the people who came to do the Referendum were sent by the Federal Government and they were very fair people and the very fact that nobody complained after they had finished is a testimony that their work was very fair.

An hon. Member : We complained.

Chief Oronsaye : You did not complain after the Mid-West Referendum and that is a testimony that they were very good workers. There is no harm in bringing these people from the Federal Capital again because if people are hand-picked from places in the strongholds of the M.D.F. and others, then it will be the beginning of trouble.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, much as I appreciate the points made by the Member for Benin East (Chief D. N. Oronsaye), I would like to appeal to him that this is not the place to draw a line; at least, to attack other political parties. This is not the place to discuss the forthcoming elections and this I say in respect of all concerned, not just to the N.C.N.C. or the N.P.C. or the M.D.F. members. I want us to debate on the subject before us—Electoral Commission—and leave the question of who is going to do this or who is going to do that, or who is going to win in the Mid-West to the electorate.

Chief Oronsaye : I thank the Minister of Finance for the points he has made. The only point I want to make now is that the elections should be fair. That is all.

Mr M. B. Afanideh (Ikot Ekpene South) : I want to say that those Members who complain should not forget what they are doing in other places. In the first instance, I want to say that the N.C.N.C. made it impossible for Dr Udo Udoma to win the last Federal Election. During the Regional elections, they cut off the Constituency of Mr Ikoku to make it impossible for him to win and now that—(Interruptions).

The Chairman : Order. Will Members please concentrate on the expenditure side of the Electoral Commission.

Mr Afanideh : I just want to point out to the Members of the N.C.N.C. that they should not talk because the Delimitation Commission was

appointed by the Federal Government and the Federal Government is satisfied with the work the Commission had done. Therefore, they should not come here to complain. We have passed that and nobody should come to say anything about it here.

Professor Kalu Ezera (Bende East) : On a point of order, in the first instance, the Member for Ikot Ekpene South (Mr Afanideh) is irrelevant. He is bringing the name of a distinguished Judge to the Floor of this House which is unnecessary and in any case, the hon. Member was once kidnapped and he wants to be kidnapped this time.

Mr Afanideh : I would like to say that if what happened in 1961 happens again this time or at any time in the future, whoever is responsible will be playing with fire. I am happy to say that some political parties who depend entirely on the use of thugs have been paid back in their own coins. A few days ago, some boys were fined £730. If any political party thinks that it can win elections by using thugs and paying a sum up to the tune of £730, let it go ahead.

I fully support the Bill and hope that the elections in the Mid-West are going to be free and fair.

Rev. J. A. Akinyemi (Ilesha Rural) : In subscribing to this debate, I would like to point out that either by mistake or by design, the affairs of the Federal Electoral Commission and appointments thereto, have been managed in a way to give the impression to the outside world as well as to the people of this country, that Nigeria is lacking in men who can man the important posts in our essential services.

For instance, there is an important person who has been appointed the Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission, who is also holding many important posts belonging to the Federal institution. The Chairman of the Federal Electoral Commission, is also the Chairman of the L.E.D.B., this same man is the Chairman of the University Teaching Hospital in Ibadan. I would ask those people who make the appointments. Is it that we do not have other men in this country who can fit in well into one or two of these other appointments? Why should these important appointments be concentrated on only one man? If it is paying this man that is encouraging

[REV. AKINYEMI]

this man because he happens to be loyal to this party or that party, I think we are making a mistake and we are portraying Nigeria as a place where men of qualities are very badly lacking.

This is a very important point and I think that in future when people do make appointments to some of our Federal institutions, they will bear in mind that there are men all over the country—in the North, in the East, in the West, in the Mid-West and in the Federal territory—who are capable enough and who are able to man such posts.

The election to the Mid-West is fast approaching and it is a very important affair and one which is dear to the hearts of very many people in this country. Therefore, the management of the affairs should be so handled that the election will be fair and free. There is one thing in this country to-day in connection with elections, and it is that people are always afraid when elections are approaching because of the activities of thugs. I think people ought to be free to go to the polls, people ought to be free during the electioneering campaigns and people ought to feel safe during the electioneering campaigns.

What happened in the past in the Mid-West has created a great fear in the minds of people now that elections in that Region are fast approaching. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Electoral Commission and those people who will be in charge of arrangements for the elections in the Mid-West to see to it that the electorate are well alerted and that arrangements are so well made that people will feel safe, people will feel secure and that people will even feel happy in being called upon to choose their own government without any let and without any hindrance.

But if people should continue to live under grave danger, if people should continue to fear that the Minister of Finance will soon come along in order to introduce danger into whatever area he goes to, I think the elections would no longer be fair and free in the Mid-West. Therefore, it is the consensus of opinion among all sections of this House that elections in the Mid-West should be fair and free.

I beg to support.

## HEAD 60.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

£80,000 for Head 60—Electoral Commission—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

## HEAD 62.—PARLIAMENT

Question proposed, That £57,000 for Head 62—Parliament—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya (Ikeja)**: I support the vote under this section in its entirety, but those of us who are Members of Parliament have a duty to help to raise the status of our country in everything. One of those duties must concern sporting activities. One comes across a lot of humiliation in this country in the realm of soccer and we, when next we come, must fight as one man to be able to make this Parliament devote something substantial to the Sports Council and particularly—

**The Chairman**: This expenditure is not on sports, but on members travelling expenses.

**Mr Ogunsanya**: I was taking it in the sense that by paying our travelling expenses, the country is investing money and it must get something out of it, and what it gets out of it is the way we come here to Parliament at the expense of the country and help to raise the status of the country internationally. I take it that when we are defeated every time in soccer the status of the country in the realm of sports is not being raised.

**The Minister of Finance**: This is far too legalistic for me.

**Mr Ogunsanya**: I agree also that whenever this Head comes before us it is for every Member—those who draw the allowance and those who do not draw it—to support.

Only the other day one of our Front Benchers issued a challenge which has been accepted for a debate at the Glover Memorial Hall at a time to be chosen by him, on the subject that "Women must have the right to vote and be voted for throughout Nigeria." (*Hear, hear*). May I, therefore, inform the Member for Dambatta (*Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai*) that the hon. Mrs Margaret Ekpc has agreed to support me in this and that he should choose a lady to support him on the other side.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (*Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule*): I am sure my hon. Friend who issued the challenge is equal to the task and he is quite prepared to accept it provided the Member for Ikeja will not hire some people to applaud him and cheer him while the debate is going on.

**An hon. Member**: Nobody will applaud.

£57,000 for Head 62.—Parliament—ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**The Minister of Finance** (*Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh*): I beg to move an Amendment to Clause 1.

Clause 1, line 16, after the word "Act" insert "1963"

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 1 as amended, and Clause 2 agreed to. Bill reported with Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE)

**Mr E. A. Mordi (Asaba East)**: I only want to emphasize a point which has been made. This is about the boasts which are being made in the Mid-West area in connection with this forthcoming election. I think that the Federal Electoral Commission has got a duty to perform in this respect. It is its duty to perform because the past events have shown that there is something in the air.

Two days ago it was noticed that the original 68 which was intended to be the number of constituencies in the Mid-West was reduced to 65 and as a result of further observation it was discovered that these three seats were removed from Asaba and Aboh Divisions. If you take the Delimitation Report and look into it you will find that the Mid-West Democratic Front recommended that there should be eight seats in Asaba Division and four seats in Aboh Division and these eight seats in Asaba Division and four seats in Aboh Division were exactly what the Federal Electoral Commission accepted. I want to say that those people who were present in the Mid-West during the time this Commission was holding and who saw how they were hobnobbing with the members of the Mid-West Democratic Party would certainly be convinced that there was something in the air.

I personally feel that the election into the Mid-West House is crucial and important not only for the Mid-Westerners but also for the whole of this country because it is only the election now that is going to be held where the N.P.C., the U.P.P., the A.G., and the N.C.N.C. and all parties in this country are very interested. As a matter of fact, we had the last Federal Election; the N.C.N.C. and the A.G. had a very difficult task in campaigning in the North. I am very happy that the Northerners are so interested in coming to the Mid-West to make their campaign.

I want to assure them that they will be very well accommodated. They are going to be very fairly treated. Nobody will be molested. The Nigeria Police will not worry them, no thugs. Mid-Westerners are peace-loving people. There are not going to be any thugs. I want to say one thing. They should be prepared to reciprocate because in the next 12 months there is no doubt that we are going to have another election, a country-wide election. What is good for the goose will also be good for the gander.

I feel very happy about this and I want to say that the boasts which are being made by the M.D.F. should be carefully looked into because at the moment it is being nursed about in the Mid-West that the list of people who are going to be—

Question, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

Sitting suspended: 12 noon.

Sitting resumed: 3 p.m.

## EXPLOSIVES BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

**The Minister of Mines and Power** (*Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule*): Hon. Members will see from the printed Explosives Bill that there are only two Clauses in it which, as the explanatory memorandum explains, seeks to provide for a centralised system for the control of explosives to meet the requirements of public safety.

Hon. Members will be fully aware of the needs of public safety which necessitate a proper and strict control of explosives so that they are only obtainable by persons and firms who will use them for such legitimate purposes as quarrying, or mining, or in the search for petroleum, or for use in firearms. Centralised control is also desirable so that my Ministry

[MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER]  
and the Police shall at all times be aware of the quantities of explosives stored within the country and the exact location of such storage. It is also necessary that the kinds of storage building or facility shall in all cases be as laid down by the law which provides for as safe conditions as are reasonably practicable.

Regulations under this Bill are in process of being drafted by the Ministry of Justice and, while they follow the general lines of the existing Explosives Regulations, will divide the responsibility for their use and safety according to the type of explosives. The Police, who are already widely spread throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria, and who already control firearms, will be responsible for gun-powder and fireworks which are amongst the low explosives group. The high explosives are those legitimately used in mining and quarrying and in the search for oil, so they naturally fall into a group which should be administered by my Ministry, particularly in view of our desire to control quarrying more effectively. I have kept the Regions informed about our proposals.

You will see from the Bill that the Act, if passed by this Parliament, will only come into force on a day which I appoint by order. It would not be desirable to appoint such a day until the Regulations are also ready for enactment. When these Regulations come into effect they will cancel all explosives facilities granted under the old regulations and give a period of time, probably up to six months, within which all persons holding explosives will be required to re-register under this Act and its Regulations.

This is extremely important so as to tighten control because it is known that many places at present licensed for storage of explosives are entirely unsuitable. Further, regular returns stating the explosives in the possession of such people are not being made and this prevents comprehensive and reliable statistics becoming available of the quantities of explosives within the country at any one time.

I commend this Bill to the House and I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji the hon. Hashimu Adaji): I beg to second.

**Mr N. E. Elenwa** (Ahoada West): If we look back about five years ago in this country we will find out that a lot has been done by

people who hide themselves under the agencies that are licensed to sell explosives. This Bill is very welcome although it has come a little bit late. Many people have been parading themselves under the guise of having registered premises where explosives are sold to the public. But if one examines it properly, one sees that some of them remain for many years without getting themselves registered.

There was a case sometime ago in Port Harcourt where many big businessmen had to smuggle and have explosives in their possession without being registered. Of course, these men were trapped by the Government and the law took its course.

I have to praise the Minister for taking this step that he has just taken in that explosives or any other thing, are among those things that worry some of our neighbouring nations, the African nations, or let me say specifically the emergent nations. These things are so scattered and some of them so smuggled in that one does not know which night an invader or somebody would strike on the Government and take over; and so with this Bill coming forward and tightening up the ways and means through which explosives come into this country, I think there will be nobody to spring a surprise attack on the Government.

Secondly, I have in mind what has happened to our sister nations, that is, the African nations, where one hears of successful *coup d'etats* taking place now and then. If these laws have not come to us, we may find out or wake up one day to find that the Government has been taken over by somebody either through the back door or from anywhere else.

We are grateful to the Minister for the foresight and we shall be sure that Nigeria, as large as we are and with the name we have made outside this country, has a stable Government and has a Government which is being headed by people who are very cool headed. With our population, I think we shall steam ahead and create a place for ourselves within the African nations.

In conclusion, I must say that this Bill is welcome and we hope that since it is not controversial, it will surely have the support of the whole House.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

#### AIR FORCE BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Defence** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): I beg to move,

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for the establishment, government and discipline of the Nigerian Air Force and of an Air Force reserve, and to provide for other matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto, be now read a Second time.

When I addressed Parliament during the last budget session, I outlined those areas in which our defences had been seriously neglected and emphasized that there was no room for leisurely evolution where a country's security is concerned. With this in mind, I have constantly striven to pursue with vigour our main objective—the transformation of our Armed Forces from the colonial to a modern well-equipped force willing and able to serve the Nation.

To achieve this we are having to face the dual task of not only breaking new ground but also of providing buttresses to the weak fabric of our colonial heritage.

An entirely new ground is the establishment of a Nigerian Air Force. I am sure that hon. Members are aware of the importance of an Air Force to the defence of a sovereign nation. Without it any development in other fields of defence would be lop-sided and it is for this reason—the need to provide Nigeria with a balanced, mobile and effective defence—that this Bill is being introduced to this honourable House.

Part I of the Bill provides for the establishment of the Nigerian Air Force for the defence of the Federal Republic by Air. In line with the Army and the Navy, the Air Force, which is a disciplined force, is not to form part of the Federal Public Service of the Federation.

Part II of the Bill prescribes the establishment of an Air Council, which will be responsible under my general authority for matters relating to command, discipline and administration of the Air Force. The operational use of the Air Force is vested in the Commander of the Air Force, subject to overall direction

by the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister as the case may be. The establishment of an Air Council is in line with the establishment of the Navy Board and the Army Council which perform similar functions for the Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian Army respectively. In this, as well as in other provisions of the Bill, the aim is to maintain uniformity as far as possible between it and the corresponding legislation for the Army and the Navy.

Part III of the Bill deals with the administration and government of the Air Force. It lays down the procedure for the appointment of officers and stipulates that the President may make regulations regarding the commissioning of officers, their terms of service, promotion, retirement, *et cetera*. In this section also, the terms of enlistment are given, including the number of years an airman may serve in the air force. Finally, this part of the Bill makes the Military Pensions Act applicable to members of the Nigerian Air Force.

Part IV of the Bill deals with discipline, and the trial and punishment of Air Force offences. The offences include cowardice, treachery and mutiny. The Court Martial procedure is to ensure that the interests of an accused person are fully protected according to the rule of law. In the last resort, appeals can be made to the Supreme Court; this provision is contained in Part V of the Bill which also spells out the procedure to be adopted in making such appeals.

Part VI of the Bill gives authority for regulations to be made governing the pay, allowances and other emoluments of members of the Air Force. Part VII of the Bill contains miscellaneous provisions such as exemption of Air Force personnel and equipment from tolls, the arrest and punishment of deserters.

Part VIII of the Bill relates to the Air Force reserve. It is normal practice for service men who have completed their regular service to be assigned to a reserve force. This ensures that there is available a trained and experienced body of men who can be called up for service as the national interest dictates. This part of the Bill provides for the regular training of such reservists and lays down that they may be called up in war time or during any emergency.

Part IX of the Bill contains clauses relating to wills and the distribution of property.

**[MINISTER OF DEFENCE]**

The Nigerian Air Force, when fully established, would be fully combatant and would not only provide a dire need for our armed forces' mobility but would also be capable of air to air and air to ground defence. For reasons of security I cannot here disclose the squadron formations envisaged; nor can I disclose the location of the various units to be established. I am sure, however, that Members will believe me when I say that with the establishment of an Air Force, this year will be a leap year in the right direction for the defence of Nigeria.

I cannot close without making mention of our deep gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for providing us with assistance in the establishment of our Air Force. They have not only offered to train most of our Air Force personnel in Germany but have also undertaken the training of Nigerian cadets and other ranks of the Air Force within Nigeria. The German Government has also kindly offered us appropriate equipment on favourable terms, and I am sure Members will join me in expressing our gratitude for this considerable assistance.

I should perhaps explain, however, that German aid in this connection is limited to advice, training, and assistance in the purchase of equipment. Unlike the older established Armed Forces—the Navy and the Army—the Nigerian Air Force will, from the beginning, be completely Nigerian not only in name but also in personnel. There will be no need for the secondment of expatriate staff and therefore no problem of Nigerianisation.

Our initial training requirements to achieve this objective are considerable and we have had to seek training facilities from other countries in the first instance in order to supplement our efforts both within Nigeria and in Germany. We are therefore grateful to the Governments of Canada, Ethiopia, India, the United States of America and Pakistan for generously offering us air force training facilities in their countries. It is our intention, within the next two or three years, to be in a position to train locally all our personnel requirements for the Air Force in line with our general policy on training and equipment for the Nigerian Armed Forces.

This Bill is straight forward and non-contentious, and I hope that when the Speaker

risers to propose it, Members from all sides of the House will support it. I commend the Bill to the House and I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance:** In rising to second this Bill I would like to associate myself with all that my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Defence has said.

We the people of this country must be grateful to God for providing us with a Minister of Defence of such stature—

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** Is it necessary to say all that?

**The Minister of Finance:** It is necessary to say it. If the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) does not want to hear it he can go and die because he will continue to hear this for many years in this House until he goes to his master again.

In all countries people are very selective about their choice of their Defence Ministers because a lot rests on him. He can make and unmake, especially if one gives the Army or the Navy of the Air Force to a bad type of person who has lust for power. Not only is our present Minister of Defence a man of stature, well-born and well-bred, but he is also a man who has power but wants to make use of such power only for the benefit of mankind.

**Mr Briggs:** I hope there is no duplication of title.

**The Minister of Finance:** What is the hon. Member still in the Action Group for? He has sold not only himself but his coat and his conscience.

An uncle of mine once said that if somebody wants to praise him he should praise him when he is alive and in his presence and not when he is dead. Not many people in this country know why we have a stable Federal Government and it is necessary to say it. People are responsible for the stability of our Government and I put the Minister of Defence as number one of such people.

**Mr Briggs:** On a point of order, I do not know if this speech is a toast of the Minister of Defence. The Minister of Finance is supposed to second the Airways Bill. If he wants to praise the Minister of Defence he can invite him to his house and praise him there.

**The Minister of Justice:** On a point of information, we have no Airways Bill before us. We only have the Air Force Bill.

**Mr Briggs:** I accept that correction, but the Attorney-General is making too much fuss on too little things.

**The Minister of Finance:** The Attorney-General wants to show that while lawyers are lawyers some are *Kuye kuye* lawyers.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** On a point of order, what is *Kuye kuye* lawyer?

**The Minister of Finance:** Mr Briggs is an example of *Kuye kuye* lawyers.

The Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) may not like to hear what I am saying, but I am saying this on the Floor of this House as one who, for ten years has, been associated with the Minister of Defence in running the Government of this Federation.

**Mr Briggs:** But it is a collective responsibility.

**The Minister of Finance:** It is a collective responsibility but because the Member for Degema will never be a Minister he will not know what it means. Although it is a collective responsibility yet somebody must be responsible for putting it forward to his colleagues. At one time people that are now well known in this country went out to look for god fathers elsewhere with a view to subverting the constituted authority of this country when we had a plan for the development of the country. It is necessary for our people to know the facts of this matter. We were in danger—

**Mr Briggs:** Sit down, my Friend.

**The Minister of Finance:** Even when the master of the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) was here he could not tell me to sit down, much less a small man like him who is a man of no consequence.

**Mr Briggs:** The Minister of Finance has a shoe factory; therefore he has consequence!

**The Minister of Finance:** But the Member for Degema is a stevedoring contractor; he is not a lawyer. He is a *yeye* lawyer.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry Omimi:** I am not aware of that, you know?

**The Minister of Finance:** I know that because people brought his stevedoring contract for me to see, and he cannot deny that. When a lawyer starts doing stevedoring work then, we all know that he is out of practice.

It is necessary for Members to know this, and I think Members know that at one time we were threatened by people who were selected to go out of Nigeria to look for god fathers to overthrow the constituted authority of this country. Whilst we were making our development programme and looking for finances to develop our economy and raise the standard of living of our people those people were planning to overthrow the Government and were causing confusion in Nigeria.

It was at that time that statements were made outside Nigeria that Nigeria was big for nothing. The Minister of Defence took the challenge and said that if anybody thought that Nigeria was big for nothing, Nigeria would reply on land, on sea and in the air. To-day, it is no more a dream. Even before this Bill is presented to the House, Nigerian boys have started to grow wings in the air.

**The Minister of Defence (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu):** On a point of information, I want to show the Minister of Finance the progress of the Nigerian boys in Canada.

(A pamphlet was passed to the Minister of Finance.)

**The Minister of Finance:** With your permission, Mr Speaker, I lay it on the Table of the House.

When we hear now of some marriage of convenience and friendship, it is because the Minister of Defence has replied that nobody in Africa for that matter can threaten Nigeria. We have the Army which, with its modern equipment, is second to none.

When the Minister of Defence wants to do a thing he does it in a big and proper way. When he stands on the Floor of this House to tell the nation that Nigeria has now got an Air Force that we can be proud of, I think it is a matter of general pride for all of us. That is why I feel proud that we have got somebody who is a pride to all of us. All of us in the Council of Ministers give him the greatest respect as

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

number one amongst us. We respect him because of his magnanimity, his broadmindedness and his ability.

**Mr W. O. Briggs (Degema):** The Minister of Defence is your god-father.

**The Minister of Finance:** What is wrong in that? People who have no god-fathers are fatherless.

**Mr Briggs:** On a point of order, ever since I was born I was told that my father is my father. I have never had two fathers at all. I have never on one occasion answered to the name of "Okotie-Eboh" and on another occasion, answered to "Okotie Edah"

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Alhaji Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima):** Everybody knows that 'Briggs' is not a Nigerian name.

**Mr Briggs:** That has nothing to do with what is on the Floor.

**The Minister of Finance:** I would not descend to the level of a slave boy who is bearing his master's name like the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*). Everybody knows his background what he is.

The fact of the case is that we have a country that people look forward to as number one country in Africa and we do not want to be a big country of no substance. We cannot be a country of substance if we are not economically and politically stable and we cannot assist other people if we have nothing to offer. There is nothing we can offer unless we are sure of our own security and with the establishment of a good Army and Navy and Air Force—

**Mr Briggs:** And rocket.

**The Minister of Finance:** I suppose Nigeria is a member of the Atomic Research Institute. It is a pity that your god-father has nowhere to bomb.

Speaking quite seriously, we are very grateful to the Minister of Defence for what he has done for the defence and security of the teeming millions of the people of this country and for making other countries realise that while Nigeria is quiet, unassuming and unprovocative in our dealing with other people, we are fully prepared to meet force with force if any devil attempts to come to our door to meddle with our affairs.

Nobody should point an accusing finger at anybody at all. After all, I know of a political party which was training people in military tactics in the United Arab Republic and other places, but because the people who know that such things are happening are not in power, nobody is accused and nobody is charged. It was common knowledge to some of us any way.

The reason why we are rejoicing this afternoon is that this Bill is proposed at all. But to praise, as I said, the Minister of Defence too much for introducing a Bill that he ought to have introduced, I think is no credit to him.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe):** I rise to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Minister of Finance on this particular Bill.

I am inspired to speak this afternoon because the reason to do is evident. I believe in this country. I believe in every inch of the destiny of Nigeria. But Nigeria cannot fulfil its objective destiny without a man who thinks beyond his own Regional boundaries, a man who thinks that the seat he is occupying in this honourable House belongs to Nigeria, and not to any particular area. Those who think in this way are those I call the cementers of the new Republic of Nigeria. These are the type of people upon whom we can entrust our Air Force and military services because not all men are able to exercise this ominous power.

Yesterday the Premier of the North spoke about the unity of this country and his speech reflects the spirit of 1964. Earlier on, both the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister of the Federation have appealed to the citizens of Nigeria to think about Nigeria as one entity and as an indivisible country. They appealed to Nigerians to think less in terms of the North, the East, the West and the Mid-West but to think solidly of one Nigeria.

To-day, I find a personality who has been charged with a responsibility and who thinks in that style and in that way. He is the hon. Minister of Defence (*Alhaji the hon. Muham-madu Ribadu*). He is a Nigerian from every considerable point of view.

I have always said that when people come to me for letters of recommendation—they say that they have been advised to get a Minister's

recommendation before they are given employment in this country—I become infuriated. It will be a sad day for Nigeria when employment in this country is no longer based on merit, but on the influence of important men. Certainly, it will be a calamity. We shall condemn this practice on the Floor of this national Parliament without reservation. People should be employed into our public service strictly on their merit and not through the influence of anybody. The person who is struggling to stop this type of practice is the Minister in-charge of the Airforce. I must say this so that people may know more about this Gentleman. In him, the North is secure, in him, the East and the West are secure. We have only got to place our case squarely before him and justice will prevail.

**An hon. Member:** What about Mid-West?

**Dr Mbadiwe:** With *Omimi Ejo*, when he frowns his face, we get more than we ought to get. The Mid-West is secure. This country needs a Nigerian personality who is serious I have no cause to flatter any man. I tell people where they go off and where they get in. I have no apology to make for being a Nigerian and I have never made it in any theatre in the world. When a thing is good, it is good. I shall acclaim it and I shall announce it time and again, so that others can learn to be straight. It is good to be straight. It pays to be one and united.

I have always said that there are some men in this country about four or five of them who make me happy when I look around and see that they are still existing. There may be troubles, and things unusual may develop, but the thought that they are living, makes me feel secure that when they act things will be normal in the interest of this great nation.

The plan which has been made for improving our Airforce is conducive to our interest in every respect. Arrangements have been made for our people to train at the best schools and this points to their efficiency and foresight. We do not want a mediocre Navy or Airforce. There are plans to train our men in the land of the masters. Our men must go to the masters' fountain and drink from there and that is what has been done and planned for this country.

[DR NBADIWE]

When we talk about individual personality, it is through individual personality that a nation can be redeemed. God told the people of Sodom and Gomorah that if they could produce ten or more faithfuls, He would not destroy their city. That figure has been reduced and to-day, one or two people can lead a nation and I am very happy. I am confident in the progress of this country. I am also enthralled by its greatness, but the men who are ruling it and who will in future, rule it, must possess the power to look beyond any regional boundary.

When a Northerner is good, he is good for Nigeria; when an Easterner is good, he is equally good for Nigeria; when a Westerner is good, he is good for this country and when a Mid-Westerner is good, he is also good for the country. Let us not see individuals in their own context but in the context of this great nation.

When I read the papers and observe that some writers and authors try to ridicule certain aspects of our life, I often tell myself that they are not judges. Our own authors and writers should write and tell the critics that we in this country know where we are going. We know where we are going to, because we are confident that there are people who can pilot our ship of state to safety.

This Bill commends itself to all sides of the House because the creation of Air Force is a step forward and the activities of the Air Force itself must be directed towards the genuine interest of the people of Nigeria. I want to see Nigerians dressed in their smart uniforms.

During the colonial days the Air Force men wore khaki uniforms and their marching was brisk but not smart and determined. What has the Minister of Defence not done? In less than two years that he took over, the Minister of Defence has introduced a smarter uniform and those who witnessed the Republican celebration and compared it with that of the Independence celebration must have seen something dynamic and something that portrays objective determination. The guns were booming and when those cannons went off, they went off with a bang and everything was fascinating to look at.

Let me say this—Some people talk of flattery, and so on. I must give one instance. When we took over our army from our colonial masters, if the Minister of Defence had no weight, and if he had not been a Minister of substance, he could not have transformed our army within such a short space of time. When we titled him "power of powers", it was not for amusement. How many Ministers have earned the title of "power of powers"? It is one and one only, and that is the Minister of Defence; that title has never been duplicated. His weight is felt slowly but surely; he is slow but determined. He is a timber of timbers. We have inherited a great situation and gradually we have transformed a colonial army into a new Nigerian army. It was not an easy operation. The Minister does not depend on the accumulation of files on his table. He knows where he is going. When people compose and write many sentences, two sentences in red ink are sufficient for him.

How many expatriates had we in the army when we took over? How many are left to-day? Is that not a great achievement? It is a very great one and it is done without any ostentation and without any demonstration. These are the things which earn a man a great name. He can remain in silence, but his work will dig him out.

With such men around we should be confident of the future. I am never in doubt as to where this country is going. Nigeria is a match for any nation in the world, let that be known now. We may be silent in our corners, but if there is anything which tends to diminish the authority and the prestige of this country, we shall rise from our various corners and say no.

So, I am full of pride to-day that a person who should present this Bill—a Bill which aims at the unification of this country, not one section of it, a Bill that no one can use to oppress others, a Bill that is in good hands—is no other than the present Minister of Defence. And we are proud of the Prime Minister in whose Government we are happy to serve—the *Abubakarian* Government. With the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister of Nigeria, the cementers of time and destiny and with the Premiers in their various theatres, I am confident of the future. I am also confident of the march, I am so confident of the progress of this great nation.

I beg to support.

Mr B. N. Ukegbu (Owerri South East): It affords me great pleasure to contribute to the debate on this Bill. I have heard the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) say that it was no use showering praises on the Minister of Defence for introducing a Bill which it is his duty to do. But there have been talk in the country that there was no necessity for establishing an air force in the face of the gigantic economic battle we are facing.

An hon. Member: What part of the country?

Mr Ukegbu: Yes, there was such talk. Now, I want to dwell a bit on the matter of financing defence as opposed to financing economic development. It is true that this country has no territorial ambitions, that we are a peace-loving nation and, that therefore, it is possible, and it will have some reason to support it, to argue that any money which we would spend on defence, on acquiring aircraft, fighting ships and expensive military equipment could better be spent on the economic sphere. It is possible to say this and to say it with good reason indeed, but as the hon. Minister of Finance said in his last Budget speech, even in this part of Africa had compelled the Government to recast its order of priorities and to pay some attention to matters of internal and external security.

I am of the opinion that in spending money on defence, the sector on which we should lay maximum emphasis is the air force and I say this with a reason. We all know that our army is not very highly equipped and that the cost of the military equipment nowadays is so high that even if we spent our whole expenditure budget on purchase of equipment, we would still buy very little.

Our navy is the embryonal stage and we cannot afford to buy expensive war ships at the moment.

It is common knowledge, that especially with the performance of our soldiers during the Congo crisis, we can rest assured that our own army is capable of defending our territorial integrity against any possible foe coming by land. But in these days it will not be a surprise to anyone that a small nation which has an efficient air force is capable of terrorising if not conquering a bigger nation which has no sufficient air defence.

I am not having any particular nation in view, but if a nation that is powerfully equipped in the air decided to bomb, say, Lagos and send down its bombers which are equipped with powerful bombs, it would terrorise us and neither our army nor our navy would then be of any use to us.

Therefore, if we have a sufficient air force, quantitatively and qualitatively efficient, I am sure that this country will then throw all its weight into economic development and rest assured that our territorial integrity is adequately protected.

It is known that modern air force equipments are very expensive. But here I want to give this advice to the Minister of Defence. We are not going to judge his efficiency or achievement by the number of bomber or fighter planes that he is able to obtain but we are certainly going to judge his efficiency and achievement by the qualitative capacity of the airplanes he can buy.

It is known that in the advanced countries of Europe like France, Germany and in America, there are many obsolete fighter and bomber planes and even though they are there, they have been superseded by planes that are equipped with all the modern facilities that aeronautical engineering have been able to produce. I am sure that the Minister of Defence himself knows that it is possible for, say, an 8104 or MIG. 52 fighter plane to liquidate an air force of about twenty obsolete fighter planes.

Therefore, I want to emphasise that we should be pleased indeed and we should have every reason to congratulate or praise the Minister of Defence if, in establishing an air force, he will pay particular attention to quality rather than quantity.

Another point I would like to place before the Minister of Defence for his consideration is that in establishing an air force particular attention should be paid to anti-aircraft weaponry; the Minister of Defence should pay particular attention to such weapons like anti-aircraft rockets and guns which would be able to protect us from any possible enemy aircraft that might be sent against our country.

[MR UKEGBU]

I understand that there is a squadron or corps being established in Kaduna and that this Army corps is being equipped to fight against enemy aircraft and that it is going to be a fully mechanised squadron. I understand also that at the present moment this squadron is equipped with anti-aircraft guns which have a range of only about one thousand feet. It is known that if an enemy bomber is allowed to fly into your territory and come as near as one thousand feet, your anti-aircraft guns will be of very little protection to you and therefore, the Minister of Defence will be doing a great duty if he pays attention to anti-aircraft weapons which will be capable of detecting and intersecting enemy planes either before they enter the territorial confines of Nigeria or when they shall have entered, to check their activities before they are able to come to such a low range as to be of danger to the citizens of this country.

Another point that I want to touch upon—and I am touching on it in general terms—is the question of court-martial in the air force. It is provided in a section of this Bill that officers and other ranks will be subject to court-martial, and if they have been found guilty they could only appeal with the leave of the Federal Supreme Court. In certain grievous offences the punishment might take the form of a life jail, and when an officer has been sentenced to life jail, he could not appeal to the Federal Supreme Court as of right. It is stipulated that only when death sentence has been passed could an officer have the inherent right to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court.

I want the Minister of Defence to consider the fact that life jail or a very long term of imprisonment is almost similar in suffering to a death sentence and to include that not only in a death sentence, but in a sentence involving a long term of imprisonment, an officer should have the right to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court.

Now, on a different note and I am winding up, I would like to say—and this has actually been suggested by a number of very well-known people, not only Nigerians but expatriates as well—that in places like England, America and Germany sometimes, there is such a thing as national service. People, when they reach the age of eighteen and leave schools and colleges, are called upon to do two year's

national service and this is used to give them military training. They elect to join either the Navy, the Air Force or the Army. There, they are given two years' training without being paid big salaries and, therefore, not of much expense to the nation. Every citizen, whether he has joined the air force or not as a career, is given two years' military training.

This has the effect of sharpening the loyalty of these men at the end of their adolescence and it has also the effect of inculcating into them a disciplined mind. It has also the effect of inculcating patriotism in these people. Therefore, if there should arise a need for mobilising the forces of the country it will not be only those who are in the Army.

Hon. Members will remember that, in 1940 when England was attacked and she was very ill equipped, she depended on her civilian defence. She depended on her ability to call out every able-bodied man and woman to get whatever weapons they could afford to defend the integrity of their country.

If as I am here, I have not got any military training, I am sure if there is war I will be all too willing to fight for my country. But I do not know how to do anything. Therefore, I think that the Government—and it is only the Federal Government which is capable of doing this—will consider the question of introducing a two-year, or at least one-year, national service into this country. A number of my expatriate friends have suggested that in addition to fighting or preparing to fight a potential enemy, we have standing enemies in this country, namely, illiteracy, poverty, backwardness and disease. They say that two years national service in economic development, education, the Air-Force and the Army.

Several hon. Members : Aye ! Aye !

Mr Ukegbu : I am sure that I have been able to drive these few points home, and I leave them to the Government to give whatever consideration they think is due to them.

Shettima Ali Monguno : It is appropriate that we should shower praises where praises are due. We cannot help criticising certain Members of the Government for doing what, in our opinion, they should not have done.

I cannot help disagreeing with the Member for Degema (*Mr Briggs*) that people should not be praised individually but rather collectively. When he was chosen by a political party as a Shadow Cabinet Minister, we thought that it was because he deserved that Shadow Ministerial appointment.

In supporting the Second Reading of the Bill before the House, I therefore see it fit and appropriate too to thank not only the Minister of Defence, but also the entire staff of his Ministry whose efforts collectively produced the very lengthy and yet very, very essential Bill now before us. It is timely because we do not think in terms of Nigeria in this age, we think in terms of Africa and we think also in terms of the world that we live in.

The establishment of an Air Force in a vast country like Nigeria, though expensive, is essential. Until about a year ago, those of us Members who travelled from the North to the South when summoned very hurriedly because there was trouble in the country brought about by people who have no respect whatsoever for law, noticed on our way how difficult it was to mobilise a Force in this country. We saw soldiers travelling under all sorts of conditions southwards from the far North in order to be mobilised with a view to saving the entire nation from a calamity which threatened this country.

In my personal opinion, the Minister deserves special praise since the Air Force such as we are proposing to establish will be useful not only to Nigeria but also to our neighbouring countries, particularly to those countries which are, unfortunately, not as better off as we are. I can assure hon. Members that this country commands great respect abroad, and a good number of African countries look to Nigeria for leadership. We cannot stand aloof and just look at others who are less fortunate. If we would like to be assisted by those who are more fortunate than ourselves, then we should also be prepared to assist others who require our assistance.

I need not speak at length because those who have spoken before me have almost said everything that I was to say, and I am only adding my own voice so that it can be recorded

that those of us Members who strongly believe that there is a need for the establishment of an Air Force in this country do welcome this Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.*

AIR FORCE BILL : CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-77—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 78—(POWER TO ARREST OFFENDERS).*

**The Minister of Defence :** I beg to move an Amendment—

Clause 78, page C335, line 43, after "officer" insert "airman".

The word "airman", which has been omitted inadvertently in the course of printing, is to be inserted as indicated.

Under this Clause as amended, an airman, like the others enumerated in the Clause, will be able to effect an arrest on an officer of the Air Force, when such airman is acting under the authority of a provost officer.

*Question, That the word proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.*

*Clause 78, as amended,—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 79-108—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 109—(REVIEW OF SUMMARY FINDINGS AND AWARDS).*

**The Minister of Defence :** I beg to move an Amendment to Clause 109—

Clause 109, page C348, line 21, delete "sentence of a court martial" and substitute "award".

This clause deals with summary punishments awarded by commanding officers usually referred to as "award", and not a "sentence of a court martial".

Clause 109, page C348, line 23, delete "by the court martial"

The Amendment here follows the last one and is based on the same principle. It is the summary award by a commanding officer that is intended and not a punishment by "the court martial". By deleting the words indicated, the clause will show the correct intention.

I beg to move.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That the word proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 109, as amended—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 110-207—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 208—(INTERPRETATION).

The Minister of Defence: I rise to move an Amendment to this clause—

Clause 208, page C382, line 44, after "or" insert "air"

The word "air" has been omitted inadvertently in the course of printing. As amended, the definition of "allied forces" now includes an Air Force of an allied country.

Clause 208, page C383, line 5, after "of" insert "any other of the Nigerian forces or"

The proposed Amendment is designed to enable the air council to declare which Air Force ranks correspond to those of the Nigerian Army and Navy, in the same manner as the air council can declare Air Force ranks as corresponding to ranks in an Allied Force.

I beg to move.

Question, That the words proposed to be inserted be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 208 as amended—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 209—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedules I and II, agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendments.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.—(THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE).

Mr P. E. Ekanem (Enyong South): I want to seize this opportunity to thank the hon. Minister of Defence and the entire members of the staff of his Ministry for this timely Bill. Not only that, I want to say that although this Bill is going to be passed and it contains a lot of things, the time has now come with the passage of the Bill that our youngmen in secondary schools should be trained in mind to be loyal to the country and volunteer at any time to defend this country.

In some secondary schools in the country a sort of military training is being introduced, and that has been a way to prepare the minds of the youth. The passage of this Bill will in any way help to reduce this unemployment disease in this country, but care must also be taken that the recruitment into the Air Force will not be confined to only the menfold, but should also include the women. Care should be taken that conditions of service, although it is a disciplined force, are made as palatable as possible so that our youngmen and women leaving secondary schools should like to take up careers in the Air Force.

It should not be treated as is the case in the Police Force, where it is difficult for the secondary school leavers to join because of the appalling conditions. The Air Force is not an easy place to be in. More especially so is it difficult to be an air pilot in the air force.

The Minister of Finance: How does the hon. Gentleman know? Was he ever in the army or the Air Force?

Mr Ekanem: I fought and was wounded in Burma as a young man. It is not a question of age. It is whether one has the fighting spirit, whether one has that love for one's fatherland. Some of us volunteered to go to fight when the Minister of Finance was a manager of a shoe factory.

The Minister of Finance: Yes, and we sent you shoes.

Mr Ekanem: What I am trying to warn against is that when we recruit our airmen, it should not be what is happening in the army or the police force, namely that one is recruited because one is an Ibo man or an Hausa man or any other tribe. Let not the qualification be for an Ibo man to come in and be asked "di anyi ibiagio?"

Mr O. O. Nweke (Ikwo): On a point of order, the hon. Member speaking should not pick out the Ibo man in this matter. That is imputing improper motives, and it is provocative to the Ibo section of the House.

An hon. Member: If he provokes you, challenge him outside.

Mr Ekanem: When I use the word Ibo, I do not mean to provoke anybody. I am only saying it because now for anybody to get any employment in this country, that person must

either get a letter from a very big man or be a brother, sister, cousin *et cetera* to a very big man in the community. So, I am saying that when we are recruiting our airmen the thing happening in other arms of the service should not be allowed to happen there. We do not want to transfer the present disease of tribalism in the Ministries and Departments and mercantile houses into our new air force. It should only be meant to protect this country.

Further, the passage of this Bill should not make the Air Force, when established, a ceremonial Air Force. We want a striking force, not a force that will just come out to fly aeroplanes all over Lagos and go away. They must be actively engaged against any eventuality.

That is the warning that I would like to give to the Government.

Mr A. U. D. Mbah (Owerri North): We really want to congratulate the Minister of Defence for bringing up this Bill. This Bill must be accepted by everybody in this country because I personally believe that apart from the size and potentialities we have in this country, Nigeria should be able to command respect by the amount of power we possess. Nations are not respected merely because they are big or are thickly populated, but because they are powerful. I therefore sincerely suggest to the Minister that the Nigeria Air Force, as my hon. Friend has said, should not be merely a ceremonial Force; it should be a striking Force, a Force that can retaliate in case this country is attacked. We do not just want an ordinary Force. I know the Minister is a capable man and I am sure he is going to strengthen our Air Force so that it can compete with any Air Force in the world.

The other point is that it may be necessary to consider expanding the Air Force in course of time because, if we concentrate power so much in a particular area, when there is war and that area is destroyed, it will be very difficult for us to retaliate. I will suggest that in course of time the Minister should think in terms of decentralising the Force. There is heavy concentration in the North where it is at the moment. For security reasons, we cannot put all our eggs in one basket. I am not saying that these things should be done to-day or tomorrow, but these are important points that should be borne in mind.

These are the few points I want to make.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu South East): I join my Colleagues in congratulating the Minister for bringing forward this legislation. I may not be an Ex-serviceman, but it does not mean that a non-ex-serviceman cannot put in a word or two on the Armed Forces.

I would like to make one or two points in my appeal to the Minister. First of all, it has been said that Nigeria's Air Force should not be merely a ceremonial Force. I would go further to say that even in its ceremonials, it should be effective, not like the military establishments we have, say, perhaps, in the Eastern Region where even when they come out on ceremonial occasions they only run around with one or two flutes and a few side drums just like school boys. It is only in Lagos and probably Kaduna that we have the military force coming out on ceremonial occasions with that striking musical instrument that really attracts people. The one we have at Enugu even during ceremonial occasions is terribly ineffective, most unattractive, and they put up very poor show. Schoolboy bands are even much more effective. Even when we want to be ceremonious, let us be effectively ceremonious.

Secondly, I agree with the hon. Members who have suggested that our Forces should be a little more evenly spread out. For my part, we are not going to turn any part of our armed forces into a Corporation in which representation must be by Regions or by tribes. By all means, open the gates to all that can contribute and do not allow some people to start getting the feeling that some are wanted and some are not wanted; or getting into the language of the "animal farm" in which we go by the principle that all are equal but some are more equal. I think that the important thing is that the Air Force should not be operated as a Statutory Corporation in which a man must have to be there because he comes from a certain group. Let the door be open to those who have *bona fide* contribution to make towards the advancement of the country in that particular sphere.

Then, the distribution must be a little bit more even. In past times, it might well have been a sensible strategic argument to say that you concentrate them far away from the ports so that they cannot be amenable to shelling from the sea. But at a time when you have all



[Mr Akwivw] ]

sorts of gadgets that can be set off from anywhere to get any target, that argument does not apply with the same force as it could have applied in the past. So that, at least, common-sense and realistic strategy require that the distribution should be fairly even and be done effectively so that even if a tribe from somewhere lets loose some gadgets, our Armed Forces will not be completely destroyed at a stretch.

With these suggestions, I do commend the Bill and I am sure that like most legislations, the legislation in itself may be a wonderful thing but a lot depends on the effectiveness, the thoroughness and the sincerity with which it is administered.

**Mr F. I. Okoronkwo** (Aba Urban): Whilst supporting this Bill, I have very few observations to make.

May I appeal to the Government of the Federation—

**Mr P. E. Ekanem** (Enyong South): On a point of order, it is provided in the Standing Orders that a Member shall speak from his seat. The Member for Aba Urban (*Mr Okoronkwo*) is not speaking from his seat.

**Mr Okoronkwo**: I was appealing to the Federal Government to make the Nigeria Air Force a striking force. Other Members of this Parliament have said the same thing, but I would like the Federal Government to take this into consideration when recruiting members of this Force. We should also try to train our men and women in the Air Force in all the countries of the world in order to have an important and effective Air Force in Africa, because in the past we had limited the training of our people in the Army to certain Commonwealth countries. We all knew what happened when Communist China attacked India—it was a deplorable situation that India could not even defend herself. When it comes to training the men of our Air Force, they should be sent to all the countries of the world: the United States of America, Great Britain, Germany, Russia and Canada.

These are the countries of the world that have a striking Air Force. We should not limit the training of our men in the Air Force to certain countries or to the former British colonial territories, or to the United Kingdom alone.

I am appealing to the Minister of Defence to evolve a scheme whereby our men—and women who will be recruited into the Air Force should be trained in all parts of the world in order to master the system—the method adopted by the various countries of the world.

I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.*

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

(No. 1) ORDER, 1964

*Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 1) Order, 1964 (Legal Notice No. 1 of 1964), a copy of which was laid before the House on 9th January, confirmed.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn sine die.*—(THE MINISTER OF FINANCE).

#### PUBLIC DEBATE CHALLENGE

**Alhaji Mohammed Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (Dambatta): Before this House adjourns, I should like to draw the attention of Member of this House to a statement made earlier this morning by the Member for Ikeja (*Mr A. O. Ogunsanya*). The House will recall that I challenged all the Professors and Doctors on that side of the House to a public debate on any matter anywhere, any time, in Nigeria or outside the country.

Now my hon. Friend has promptly accepted my challenge and has suggested that the subject should be, "Woman must vote and be voted for throughout Nigeria." The venue, he suggested, should be the Glover Memorial Hall, and the time he left to me to decide upon. I should like to have it recorded that I have just replied to my hon. Friend the Member for Ikeja (*Mr A. O. Ogunsanya*).

**Mr A. O. Ogunsanya** (Ikeja): Read my letter to you before the House.

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai**: In my reply to Mr Ogunsanya, I said, "I thank you for your prompt reply to my challenge for

a debate on matters of vital importance to our nation. I would be glad to meet you anywhere and at any time.

I would say that the subject you propose for a public debate is a very narrow one, and I would therefore want to suggest a much more comprehensive subject that would allow room for debate, especially on crucial questions like tribalism in Nigerian politics, and such like, which might interest us.

I therefore suggest this subject as an alternative—"The Nigeria we want."

**Mr F. C. Ogbalu** (Awka North): The challenger should not give the subject of the debate, but should accept the subject given by the person he has challenged, otherwise, it means that he is giving a subject he is quite familiar with, and we will not accept that as a challenge any more.

**Alhaji Muhtari Sarkin Bai**: My reply continues—

"You will agree that the above subject will afford an opportunity to debate, not

only your question, but others of major importance.

I suggest further that the venue should be the country's T.V. network anywhere in Nigeria—Lagos, Kaduna, Enugu or Ibadan—and the time will be mutually agreed between us".

**Mr D. N. Chukwu** (Awgu South): I think it is a waste of time of this House for the challenger to propose a subject like this. He must admit that we have doctors, lawyers and professors on this side of the House, but he is only an opportunist. To bring a subject of this kind on the Floor of the House is to waste the precious time of this honourable House.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*: That this House do now adjourn sine die.

*Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to five o'clock.*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS—2nd OCTOBER, 1963

### WORKS AND SURVEYS

#### Flooding of Roads

O.1102. Mr S. O. Kolade asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what plans he has to prevent any further flooding of our trunk roads 'A'.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys:** The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Ministerial statement which was given to this House on Thursday the 19th of September, 1963.

O.1106. Mr R. O. A. Akinjide asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what steps he is taking to prevent a recurrence of the Ikorodu and Abeokuta road floods in the future.

**The Minister of Works:** The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Ministerial statement which was given to this House on Thursday the 19th of September, 1963.

O.1134. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, what steps he is taking to prevent the recurrence of floods along Lagos-Ikorodu and Lagos-Abeokuta roads.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys:** The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Ministerial statement which was given to this House on Thursday the 19th of September, 1963.

#### Enugu-Abakaliki Road

O.1098. Mr N. Nwangbo asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how soon the reconstruction of the Enugu-Abakaliki road will commence.

**The Minister of Works:** Funds are not available for the reconstruction of the whole of this road but work will commence shortly on rehabilitating and replacing the sub-standard bridges.

#### Aliade-Jos Road

O.1109. Mr V. T. Shisha asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, why the Aliade-Jos trunk road 'A' is not completely tarred.

**The Minister of Works:** Owing to limited funds, it has not been possible yet to tar all Federal Trunk roads, and the best use has had to be made of the funds available. Existing

traffic does not yet justify this road being given a high priority. Nevertheless, the untarred section will be reconstructed and an adequate gravel surface provided which should be sufficient until traffic has increased to a level which would justify tarring.

### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

#### Chemical Industries

O.1028. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he has any plans to establish chemical industries so that drugs could be manufactured and sold cheaply in the country.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** Government has no plans to engage in drugs manufacture but is aware of a number of commercially promoted projects now in being or under active consideration for the local manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals.

#### New Industries

O.1135. Mr S. Nnaji asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state how many industries have been established in this country since October 1960, and where are they sited.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** Because there is no system of industrial licensing in Nigeria the information available in my Ministry is not sufficiently comprehensive to enable me to give accurately the statistics requested. Steps are being taken to prepare a register of all industries in Nigeria and I anticipate that the information required will be published, in the form of an Industrial Directory, towards the end of this year.

O.947. Mr A. A. Odurinde asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry if he will state the annual average tonnage of Cocoa and Palm Kernels exported from Oshun Division in Western Nigeria and if he can state how many people in that Division are licensed buying or shipping agents.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The hon. Member may be aware that by Acts passed in the various Regional legislatures in 1954, Regional Marketing Boards were created. In the Western Region, as in any other Region, the Marketing Board is responsible for the purchase of produce for export and for matters connected therewith, including the appointment of licensed buying agents.

I would therefore advise the Hon. Member to direct his question to the Regional Government Marketing Board.

#### Publicising Nigeria Products

O.914 Mr D. N. Chukwu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what efforts he is making abroad to advertise goods manufactured in Nigeria.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** One of the primary objectives of encouraging the establishment of industries is to reduce Nigeria's dependence on overseas manufacturers by the substitution of locally made articles. I look forward to the day when our industries are able, not only to supply the needs of our people, but to offer a wide range of products to export markets. However we have a long way to go before this target is reached. With one or two limited exceptions, the level of local production is far from adequate to meet our domestic requirements at the moment.

#### Cottage Industries

O.905 Mr E. J. Ogunkanmi asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether he has any proposals to establish cottage industries in the country, and if he will state where they will be located.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The establishment of cottage industries is the responsibility of the Regional Governments. Federal Government has been able to assist them in their endeavours by providing additional advisory staff in some cases and through the medium of the Federal Loans Board.

#### Processing of Rubber

O.1014 Mr D. N. Oronsaye asked the Minister of Economic Development, whether he has any plans for research in rubber processing.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** My Ministry has no special plans for research in rubber processing but the Federal Institute of Industrial Research is available to offer assistance in this field should the need arise. As a matter of fact the Director of the Institute has had extensive experience in Malaya on rubber research and this is at the disposal of any person interested.

O.1030. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will consider, in consultation with the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, exploring the possibilities of establishing industries requiring large labour forces in order to help solve the problem of acute unemployment in this country.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The desirability of encouraging the establishment of labour intensive industries is fully appreciated and close liaison is maintained between all Ministers of the Federal Government and with Regional Governments, to ensure that every avenue is explored to this end.

#### Hire Purchase Law

O.950. Mr F. C. Ogbalu asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will now undertake the revision of the Hire Purchase law now that the consent of the Regional Governments have been obtained.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The Federal Government has already submitted a draft Bill on Hire Purchase to the Regional Governments for their comments which are now being awaited.

#### INTERNAL AFFAIRS Compensation

O.1093. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how much was paid as compensation to the warder who lost two of his teeth during the riot at the Broad Street Prison, Lagos on the 1st of June, 1963.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs:** For the information of the hon. Member, there was a small disturbance at Broad Street Prisons on the 1st of June, 1963. This disturbance can scarcely be described as a riot.

No compensation has yet been paid to the warder who sustained injuries during the disturbance. The Ministry of Labour is however considering the matter.

The hon. Member will appreciate the extreme care required in calculating the financial value of two missing teeth.

#### Female Prisoners

O.1027. Mr D. Senu-Oke asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will state how many women prisoners are nursing babies in prison and what special provisions he has made for their comfort.

The Minister of Internal Affairs. : There are 66 women prisoners nursing babies in Federal Female prisons.

Pregnant women are delivered of their babies at government hospitals.

All nursing babies in the institutions are provided with baby cots equipped with mattresses and mosquitoes nets. Adequate clothing is provided by the Department. Diet for the babies is based on the recommendations of the Medical Officers who are also responsible for their health and welfare.

## 8th JANUARY, 1964

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Postal Service in Degema Division

\*O.1143. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that letters, telegrams and other postal matters posted to Odual area in Degema Division have to wait at the Degema Post Office and are only collected once a week and transported by means of slow-moving canoes for distribution to Kugbo, Emago, Emelego, Adada, Ogboloma, Aminigboko, Amuroto and thirty or more towns and villages in the Odual area; and when will he introduce a much faster means of distributing mails to these areas.

The Minister of Communications : Of all the towns mentioned in Odual Area, only Emelego has a postal agency.

### ESTABLISHMENTS

#### African Staff Housing Scheme

O.1139. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Establishments how much his Ministry has spent to date on the African Staff Housing Scheme, how many officials have benefited from the Scheme, and what steps he is taking to make more people take advantage of the Scheme?

The Minister of Establishments : The African Staff Housing Scheme was begun in 1924, but it was not until April 1960 that my Ministry assumed responsibility for its administration.

Between 1950 and 1960, £805,000 was spent on the scheme and since 1960 a further £855,000.

1,530 officers have received loans under the scheme and to enable this number to be increased, a sum of £1,830,000 has been voted under the Federal Government's 6-Year Development Programme.

The existing mail arrangement between Emelego Postal Agency and the Controlling Departmental office Degema is once weekly by Canoe Runner.

It is the responsibility of the Postal Agent or the local community to collect mails at Degema and my Ministry has no objection to increased frequency of collection or any faster means of collection which the agent of the local community can provide in consultation with the local community.

#### Post Office for Buguma

\*O.1144. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Communications, whether he is aware that the volume of postal business transacted at the Buguma postal agency

sometimes far exceeds that done at the Degema Post Office, and whether he will now consider providing Buguma with a full post office.

The Minister of Communications : A Departmental Type N.1 Post Office Building has been approved for Buguma and the necessary funds have been released for the Project but it is not yet known when the building will be completed.

#### Telephone Facilities

\*O.1145. Mr W. O. Briggs asked the Minister of Communications, when telephone facilities will be extended to Buguma, Bakana, Tombia, Okrika, Bonny, Kugbo and Emelego.

The Minister of Communications : A Similar question was asked by the same hon. Member in April 1960.

A rural call office facility already exists at Bonny, and present plans envisage the provision of telephone exchanges at Bonny, Buguma and Okrika.

Bakana, Emelego, Kugbo and Tombia are also listed for consideration for Telephone Service.

### ESTABLISHMENTS

#### Prisons Department

O.1163. Mr J. S. Tarka asked the Minister of Establishments, whether Government intends to give pay rise and improved service conditions to members of the Prisons Department.

The Minister of Establishments : Until Mr Justice Morgan has submitted his Report the Government does not intend to consider any alteration in the pay and conditions of service of civil servants.

#### African Staff Housing Scheme

O.1213. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Establishments how much his Ministry has spent to date on the African Staff Housing Scheme, how many officials have benefitted from the Scheme, and what steps he is taking to make more people take advantage of the Scheme?

The Minister of Establishments : The African Staff Housing Scheme was begun in 1924, but it was not until April 1960 that my Ministry assumed responsibility for its administration.

Between 1950 and 1960, £805,000 was spent on the Scheme, and since 1960 a further £855,000.

1,530 officers have received loans under the Scheme, and to enable this number to be increased, a sum of £1,830,000 has been voted under the Federal Government's Six-Year Development Programme.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### The Six-Year Development Programme

\*O.1286. Mr S. O. Ogun-dipe asked the Minister of Economic Development, if he will give a comprehensive list of the projects he has for the Six-Year Development Programme, and whether he will make a statement on those items which have been executed and those which have not yet been executed, quoting the value of each.

The Minister of Economic Development : All the projects in the Six-Year Development Programme are listed in the National Plan Documents which have been circulated to all Honourable Members. I will make a comprehensive statement on those Plan Projects which have been executed and those which have not yet been executed, at the next Budget Session of Parliament.

9th JANUARY, 1964

## EDUCATION

## Registration of School Children

O.1154. Mr R. N. Muojeke asked the Minister of Education, what methods he intends to employ to facilitate the registration of school children in Lagos schools.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I am aware of the difficulty, and consequent frustration, annually met by parents during the period for the registration of primary school children in Lagos due, primarily, to the inevitable congestion caused, no doubt, by the fact that all parents are obliged to register their children within the deadline stipulated.

My Ministry is already examining the practicability of:

(i) spreading this annual exercise for a longer period;

(ii) classifying eligible children according to the alphabetical order of their surnames; and

(iii) splitting the exercise in groups according to the order.

## University Entrance

O.1155. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider introducing special entrance examination to the University of Lagos for Businessmen, Parliamentarians, etc., who are willing to study Law or Commerce.

Hon. Aja Nwachuku: The question of entrance requirements is shortly to be considered by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of our five universities and the introduction of our entrance examination requirement is still being considered.

At present, however, the following categories of possible applicants are eligible for consideration for admission to degree courses of the University:

(i) Graduates of Universities recognized by the Senate for this purpose;

(ii) Candidates holding the General Certificate of Education including five subjects of which not less than two have been passed at Advanced Level or including four subjects of which not less than three have been passed at Advanced Level; Provided that:

(a) no subject may be counted at both Ordinary and Advanced Levels;

(b) the subjects passed include English Language; except that candidates who show special ability in Science subjects but have not passed in English Language may be given special consideration to the Faculty of Science by the Senate. (Credits gained in the first School Certificate and passes gained in Subsidiary subjects in Higher School Certificate will be accepted as the equivalent of passes at Ordinary Level in the General Certificate of Education; passes in the Higher School Certificate will be accepted as the equivalent of passes at Advanced Level in the General Certificate of Education).

(iii) Part-time students may be allowed to attend lectures with the permission of the Head of Department concerned without satisfying the normal conditions of entry and on payment of the appropriate fee.

## Man O'War Bay

O.1156. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the cost of the buildings, equipment, staff salaries, maintenance, etc., of the Man O'War Bay since its inception.

Aja Nwachuku: Since 1953-54, when the Federal Government took over the Man O'War Bay (now Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre) from the Government of the Eastern Region which founded the institution in 1951, to 1962-63, an expenditure

of £276,640 has been incurred on the Centre according to the following breakdown:—

Personal Emoluments .. .. .	£ 85,773
Other Charges .. .. .	88,073
Maintenance, Building, Vehicles and Craft .. .. .	22,602
Equipment .. .. .	30,330
Building and Development .. .. .	35,862
Cost of Approach Road 1958-59 .. .. .	10,000
Total .. .. .	276,640

Another summary breakdown of expenditure for the period 1st April, 1963 to 31st October, 1963 is as under:

Cost of transfer to Kurra Falls .. .. .	£ 6,490
Acquisition to Kurra Falls .. .. .	3,000
Miscellaneous (Personal Emoluments, maintenance equipment and other charges) .. .. .	19,940
Total .. .. .	29,430

The position then is that an amount of £306,070 has been expended on the institution by the Federal Government during the past ten years.

## Vocational Guidance

O.1157. Mr V. L. Lajide asked the Minister of Education, what are the functions and achievements of the "Vocational Guidance" Section of his Ministry.

Hon. Aja Nwachuku: The primary function of "Guidance Counselling and Testing Service" under my Ministry is to cater for the development of all pupils from the Primary School stage to the end of their pre-University career, the objective being to assist them in choosing vocations best suited to their interests, aptitudes and intellectual bent.

The Guidance operates with the aid of modern techniques, e.g., aptitude tests through interviews, objective reports, information from parents, etc. It is also designed to meet the unusual case of handicapped and less gifted children. Further, not only parents, guardians

and teachers, but also corporations and firms, who find it most useful for selecting those for employment or training, make use of the Service. Since its inception in 1961, the Service has periodically conducted selection of candidates for various courses in teacher training, stenography and technical education.

Careers exhibitions are organised fairly regularly in order, not only to introduce pupils to employment opportunities, but also to link them with their employment agencies. Recently, researches have been conducted in Primary Schools in order to assess the effectiveness of the teachers and the taught.

Every Lagos Secondary School now has a career teacher on its staff who advises on the application of the appropriate test methods in the School. Regular liaison is maintained between the Labour Juvenile Employment Service and the Guidance Service. In this way, it ensures that available jobs and training information reach the Schools fairly quickly.

Finally, my specialist officials frequently participate in International meetings or conferences on the subject of Educational and Vocational Guidance.

## Inter Regional Technical Schools

O.1158. Mr S. Nnaji asked the Minister of Education, what plan he has to open up inter-regional technical schools in each of the four regions in Nigeria.

Hon. Aja Nwachuku: There is no plan to open inter-regional technical schools in each of the four Regions. The Federal Ministry is giving consideration, however, to making grants-in-aid available to technical colleges in the Regions in accordance with Sessional Paper No. 3 (1961) of Educational Development for 1962-68.

## CABINET OFFICE

## Census Bags

O.1218. Mr B. N. Ukegbu asked the Prime Minister, why the 1962 Census bags were not used for the 1963 Census, and if he will state the cost of importing the 1963 Census bags.

The Prime Minister: The 1962 count was taken during the rains and many of the bags became unserviceable; the bags that were used for the 1963 count were thrice the number used for the 1962 count; it would still have been

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(e)

I confess I know something about. The Marine Department is costing the country a thousand pounds a day and it seems to me that the Department might devote more of its energies to improving the services of the port rather than in saving a few thousand pounds in coal contracts. Personally I would rather see more facilities given to the Shipping Companies for using this port both night and day, and I think I have pressed that upon you more than once, Sir.

His Excellency :—

I have already told the Honourable Member that that question is under consideration.

The Hon. the Member for Shipping :—

Yes, Sir, but this item of another collier is already on the table to be passed and in my opinion I think the item might very well be deleted.

The Hon. the Director of Marine :—

I wish to make it clear in the first case that this proposed collier is not an increase to the fleet but a replacement of one of the existing vessels which is getting worn out.

The whole question is one of public economy and the following figures well, I think, show that it is far more economical for Government to do this transport themselves than to let any of it out to tender. With the joining up of the Eastern and Western railway systems two Government colliers will be able to carry all the coal required by Government at Lagos and other ports for some years to come.

Since 1919 the cost to Government of the transport of coal has been as follows :—

1919	Elders were paid 40/-	Government colliers carried at 17/-.
1920	do. 10/-	do. 20/-.
1921	do. 35/-	do. 13/4.
1922	do. 21/6	do. 11/4.
1923	do. 21/6	do. 9/2.
1924	do. 19/6	do. 9/5.
1925	do. 19/6	do. 6/9.

The Honourable Member for Shipping appeared to doubt the accuracy of my figures yesterday. All I can say is that they are all shown fully in the annual report, each ship's accounts for the year being shown separately. Every item is brought to account, and in the chapter on the general question of transport of coal the establishment charges are added, *viz.*: 25%, on the working costs, and depreciation is also charged on a very liberal basis. If any further information is required the books at Apapa are open to any inspection the Governor may order. I am not a shipping manager, but I have been going to sea all my life and I cannot think of any charges against our working costs that have been omitted. The Honourable Member for Shipping dragged a herring across the trail in mentioning *The Lady Clifford* and the dredging accounts. It is quite correct that depreciation is not shown in those accounts, and there is a note to that effect at the end of the chapter. It would be quite easy to include depreciation in those accounts but the necessity is not apparent. Those accounts are kept to show the working costs for comparative purposes year by year, and as long as the same factors are included each year the object aimed at is achieved.

The following facts will illustrate to some extent the reason why we can carry coal so cheaply compared to the best rates we have ever been able to get from Elders.

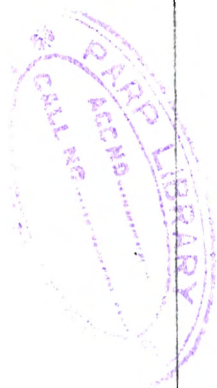
The Marine colliers carry nearly double the quantity of cargo that Elder's branch steamers do, though the cost of upkeep is probably little, if any, more. As a matter of fact, I should say it was practically the same. Again the *Enugu* for instance made thirty trips during the year, which is a performance quite impossible to the older branch boats.

The Hon. the Member for Shipping :—

Might I suggest that your worthy *Diana* comes into this category?

The Hon. the Director of Marine :—

Yes, the *Diana* made twenty-three trips, which is also very much more than any of your branch boats did or could do.



One reason of the greater number of the trips made by the *Enugu* is that being a modern collier she is much more rapidly discharged by the transporters at Iddo than the smaller old fashioned vessels. Indeed it is practically impossible to use the transporters on the branch boats as their hatches are so small, and for this reason alone it is advisable to order the modern vessel asked for. We turn the *Enugu* round at Lagos in three days; the average time it takes to turn the branch boats round is nearer fourteen days.

In framing the price of coal at Lagos in next year's Estimates the cost of coal transport has been reduced from the present pooled rate of 13s. to 10s. per ton. This has effected reductions of £15,000 in the case of the railway, *see* paragraph 333 of Estimates memorandum, and £5,000 in the Marine and other Government Departments. This rate which was made before figures for last year were available is capable of still further reduction later on and may be brought down another 2s., which all reacts favourably on the expenditure of coal using Departments.

In addition to the above saving of some £20,000, there is a direct saving of £28,000 (assuming this year's figure to be repeated next year), on coal transport contracts. The purchase of a new collier for £50,000 therefore will be responsible for a saving of £48,800 in recurrent expenditure in the next and following years, of which £28,800 is actual cash. Against this we must set £15,000 for working costs, leaving a net annual saving of say £33,000.

Or to put it another way, if we do not replace the old *Diana* and have to contract for 45,000 tons of coal to be carried after that vessel is scrapped, it will cost us, at present rates, about £27,500 a year more than if we do it ourselves. I submit, Honourable Members, that this is a business proposition. (Applause.)

His Excellency:—

The motion is that the report as amended be adopted.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Might I, on a point of procedure as regards the question which I raised in Committee, ask for enlightenment? The particular item that I had in view was Item 138 of Head 34, Public Works Extraordinary, of the draft Estimates. The point was one of principle and the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government ruled that I ought to bring it up on the third reading of the Supply Bill. I take it I ought not to raise the point now on the motion for the adoption of the report of the Select Committee.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I would suggest that the Honourable Member leaves any remarks he wishes to make on this matter until the motion for the third reading of the Bill. It is usual.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Although I intended to move the deletion of the item on a question of principle?

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Yes.

The motion for the adoption of the report of the Select Committee on the Supply Bill as amended was then put and carried.

His Excellency:—

The Council will now consider the Supply Ordinance clause by clause.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Consequent upon the proceedings in Committee I wish to alter the figure of £8,112,393 appearing in clauses 1 and 2 to £8,066,495.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

I beg to second.

His Excellency:—

The motion is that clauses 1 and 2 as amended do stand part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried).

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government.

I beg to move that the Council do now resume.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

I beg to second.

(The Council resumed accordingly).

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

Sir, I beg to report that the Supply Ordinance has been considered in Committee and certain amendments were made and I now rise to move that the Bill be read a third time and do pass.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Sir, I beg to second.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I wish to move an amendment to the motion which the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government has proposed. The amendment is in regard to item 138 of Head 34, Public Works Extraordinary, of the draft Estimates, which provides for additions to the African Hospital, Calabar, and for which a sum of £24,000 is provided. My amendment is that that money should not be expended unless and until Government has decided definitely to proceed at the same time, or sooner, with an electric light scheme for Calabar.

The reason that I raise this question now, and did not raise it before the Select Committee of the House on the Estimates, is this. This motion is based on what I consider to be an important principle. Now, Sir, I am the last person in the world to suggest that any additions to a hospital in this country, and particularly an African Hospital, are not a desirable object of expenditure. And I think that I will be acquitted of any suggestion that the expenditure of £24,000 on Calabar is anything but a desirable thing. But what I say, Sir, is this, we have in Calabar an Obong and Chiefs representing the old regime; we have a modern second-class township; a local authority with an Advisory Board; a Chamber of Commerce; and we have two Members in this Council one elected by the Government and one nominated. If it is a fact, and I am prepared to argue that it is a fact, that Government can afford, out of public funds at its disposal, to spend £24,000 on additions to the Calabar Hospital, then Government is equally able to afford that expenditure on an electric light scheme if that be more urgent. My suggestion is this. That before that £24,000 is spent on Calabar all those local interests and representatives ought to be consulted as to what is the most urgent object on which the amount should be spent. I am in a position to say, and my Honourable friend, the Member for Calabar, will correct me if I am wrong, I am in a position to tell this Council that there are other objects which in Calabar, among the people who know Calabar, are considered more urgent than additions to the Native Hospital. An electric light scheme is in the fore front of these objects; that is one of the things which is most urgently needed. There are other urgent objects but one is enough for my argument. Having regard to the fact that none of the authorities I have mentioned have been consulted with regard to this £24,000 worth of expenditure, I do submit that that sum should not be expended until Government sees its way to instal an electric light scheme at the same time.

I asked a question in Council as to whether Government would be prepared to instruct the Director of Public Works to enquire into and report upon the question of electric lighting for Calabar Township and we were assured in the answer of the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government in answer to that question that the Government had that matter "under consideration"; that, however, is a small crumb of comfort, but I submit that, in fairness to the locality, local interests ought to be consulted both as to the African Hospital and the electric light scheme and the relative urgency of them.

We have a very good African Hospital in Calabar and in support of that statement, I may refer Honourable Members to the Annual Medical Report for 1924 which, in this year of grace, is the latest report we have. I am not suggesting that the accommodation is entirely adequate but I am pointing out that the inadequacy of hospital accommodation is not on the face of it so great as the need for electric light. According to the report there were in Lagos African Hospital in 1924 sixty-seven beds, and in Calabar Hospital there were fifty-seven beds. Lagos therefore had ten more beds than Calabar. That difference in accommodation does not in any way represent the difference in the population between Lagos and Calabar. I submit that Calabar is better off than Lagos



on these figures. In addition to our excellent hospital in Calabar (and in passing I wish to pay a tribute to the efficiency of the hospital and to the present Medical Officer in charge to whom that efficiency is mainly, if not entirely due), in addition to that African Hospital we have in Calabar an Infectious Diseases Hospital which, according to the report I have referred to, is equipped with sixty-six beds; while in Lagos Infectious Diseases Native Hospital there are thirty-eight beds. I do not suggest that Lagos is adequately provided for but no one suggested that Lagos African Hospital should be added to before it got electric light. The general view of Calabar is, and I speak also particularly for the Chamber of Commerce, that the electric light scheme is of greater urgency than the Hospital scheme and accordingly I beg to move the amendment in the terms I have read, and I will hand it in to the clerk.

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I beg to second the amendment. I may say that the practice of treating the representatives of the people as if they were a pack of school boys is getting wide-spread. It is not only in connection with the Medical Department that there is cause to complain but almost in every Department of the Government. The Unofficial Member is ignored if he makes any suggestion or asks for information but when a particular official makes representations on things which his Department wants he usually gets what he wants, but as for the people it does not matter whether they want it or not they get it. I rise to second this amendment on the principle that the representatives of the people should be consulted. Yesterday I was asked by the Chairman of the Committee whether I would rather have an electric light system at Calabar or a hospital. I was convinced that the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government asked that question in order to get me to say I wanted one thing or the other. If I had said the electric light system I should have been accused of brutality, and if I had said the hospital, I should then have been told that I could not have the electric light scheme, and I was afraid that whichever way I answered I should have been tied down to my answer, and the result might have been that we should have got neither hospital or electric light installation.

I have visited Calabar Hospital off and on during the last five years, I am afraid I have not been there as often as I might have done, and in my opinion the accommodation is quite sufficient. The only occasion I had reason to think that there was a necessity for extension was when I found recently that the better class of the Calabar people had not proper accommodation, but I cannot think that this large sum of £24,000 is going to be spent merely on further and better accommodation for the better class. When the particular form of the extension was brought before the Council at Calabar I made it my business to go and see the Medical Officer in charge and he told me that there was no necessity for any further extension, and yet the Government now say they are prepared to spend £24,000 on something the people do not want, on something which they have not applied for. I think, and I agree with the Honourable Member who has just spoken, that there is a far greater need for an electric light scheme than for an extension of the Hospital. I remember that when His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor visited Calabar a short time ago a special order was made that certain lamps in the streets through which His Honour would pass must be filled with a certain quantity of petrol for fear the lights in the streets through which His Honour drove might go out. It seems to me that preparations such as this go to show the urgent need for the installation of electric light in Calabar. I beg therefore to second the amendment which has been proposed.

Before I sit down I should like to ask the Honourable the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service what report he received from the local authorities.

The Hon. the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service:—

This seems to be a question of principle and I do not see that I am called upon to reply on behalf of the Government as to the relative merits of additions to a hospital and an electric light scheme. I may, however, say this: as regards the need for the extension of the hospital, the question of providing medical facilities cannot be contrasted with the other needs of Calabar. I personally assured myself of the need for this extension and I know that Dr. Maples is convinced of the need for it. The proposed extension is based upon suggestions put forward by Dr. Maples

himself. Anybody who sees the congestion there and knows the number of cases that are awaiting treatment is bound to be convinced of the necessity for it. As to the relative value of an electric light scheme when compared with the other needs of Calabar I cannot say anything.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

With regard to the Honourable Member's motion the position seems to be that he objects to additions to the hospital being made unless he gets an electric light scheme to go hand in hand with it. That is not a position we can accept for a moment. He seems to think also that before we proceed with the scheme we should enquire of all concerned for their views of the matter. The Honourable Member himself is here to state the views of the people he represents and it cannot be suggested that we should hold an enquiry every time we want to improve the conditions and amenities of a place, but we are quite prepared to say that not a penny will be spent on that item until the matter has been reviewed in greater detail. We want to impress on Honourable Members that questions of health must come first and Government will give an assurance that no part of the sum will be expended unless the expenditure is absolutely necessary.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

May I have some further information as to what it is proposed should be built or added to? And whether an electric light scheme is in the offing?

His Excellency:—

I would ask the Honourable the Director of Public Works whether an electric light scheme for Calabar forms part of his schedule of works for the current year?

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

The Calabar electric light scheme has been included in the schedule of development proposals now before Government and is only awaiting consideration with many other things. In order to carry out all these things we shall want more staff. As regards the hospital the Commercial Member for Calabar seems to think that these additions are unnecessary. I may say in answer to that that the medical authorities have stated that the additions are necessary. The actual provision is for new wardens office, dispensary, specialists room, library, X ray room and generating room; new dressings and preparation rooms; new ward for female patients, six private wards; enlarging laundry and property room, European sisters' and medical officers' quarters, twelve quarters for African male staff; new mortuary and up-to-date sanitary arrangements.

His Excellency:—

I think I ought to explain that the electric light scheme is one of a number of proposals which Government has now before them and the only matter which is holding this particular scheme up is the necessity for getting out an electrical engineer to carry the work through. An engineer has already been indentured for along with several others and when he arrives in the country the matter will receive very early attention.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: In view of what has now been stated I propose with the permission of the seconder to withdraw my motion. If, in answer to my question the other day, I had received an answer that an electric light scheme for Calabar is now definitely decided upon and simply awaits the arrival of the officer who is to deal with it, I would not have moved this amendment. In view of the assurance which is now given I therefore withdraw my motion. I may perhaps be permitted to say that we have heard that it is proposed to instal an "X" Ray room and apparatus as part of the additions to this hospital, and that seems to be another reason why the electric light scheme should go hand in hand with the additions to the Hospital, as, of course, you cannot use "X" Ray apparatus without electricity.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

Your Excellency: With your permission I propose to bring to your notice two matters which have been considered by the Chamber of Commerce. In both cases we have tabled questions to the Legislative Council.

The first matter I wish to mention is the provision of an adequate water police service for Lagos. In your Excellency's speech you stated that the total value of imported and exported goods was over £31,000,000 and you also stated that 531 ships cleared the port last year. I submit that twenty-five policemen with four canoes (with the occasional advantage of a patrol supervised by an European officer) to patrol the vast districts in and surrounding the Lagos lagoon is utterly inadequate to the requirements of the port. The patrols have to go up to Apapa, Ijora, Iddo, Ebute Metta, Epefedo, and also up the Badagri Creek. When you consider the area of all these districts and when you consider the large amount of produce lying about waiting to be exported, and the volume of merchandise imported, I contend that such a handful of men is not enough to protect property. It may be news to you to know that the robbers are continually active, scarcely a day passes but that one or another of the commercial firms does not suffer loss by theft. We were informed by the Lieutenant-Governor that only two thefts of this kind have been reported to the police during the last fourteen months and that in one case the robbers were caught. I can assure him that a lot more thieving than that goes on. I should like to particularly mention that whilst I was staying down at Five Cowrie Creek recently I noticed the water police patrolling the creek in the neighbourhood of Onikan. What there is to protect in the neighbourhood of Onikan I do not know, but I do know that whilst these police are idling their time away down at Onikan the Commercial community is suffering continually from loss by robbery, and it seems to many of us here that this is almost entirely through the inadequacy of the present water police system. So, your Excellency, I ask you to give this matter your favourable consideration.

The other matter I will touch upon as briefly as I can. It is of far graver import than the question of water police. I was instructed to table a question with respect to the medical services and in the question I contrasted the charges made as between people of good position and the labouring classes. I also instanced, at the Select Committee, cases which we are prepared to substantiate where labourers employed by the firms meeting with an accident, and being sent to hospital, exorbitant charges are made for medical attendance. In addition to ordinary maintenance, you get a bill of perhaps £5 for medical attendance. I suggest that the charge for medical attendance should be made on the basis of the salaries these men receive. The employers have no liability really. There are thousands of men employed by the commercial firms and the cost to them is very considerable. If the firm sends a man to hospital the firm is looked upon to pay the bill. When the matter came before the Select Committee it was discovered that these complaints were not peculiar to Lagos but that they extended throughout Nigeria and as we only received, just prior to this meeting of the Council, the Medical Report we were not aware, until we met, of the real state of affairs with regard to the terrible mortality in the north and of the shortage of doctors.

His Excellency:—

The Honourable Member suggests that he might have been given the medical report before. Is that his point?

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Lagos:—

We were not aware in Lagos of the terrible mortality in the north and the shortage of doctors and I have no doubt the Honourable the Commercial Member for Kano will have something to say about this. It seems to be admitted by the Medical Department that they cannot obtain a sufficient supply of medical men and that seems to be corroborated by a report that appeared in *Reuters* not long ago, when it stated that the British Medical Association had advised their members not to accept Colonial appointments. I say that this shortage of medical officers is a matter of great urgency and it should be taken in hand at once. If you cannot get European medical officers you should make the fullest use of the African practitioners. Some of us get rather tired of hearing of the shortage of medical men here; we cannot understand why you do not tap the resources available at your own doors. It was suggested that I should table a motion for a reduction in the medical vote but I think that we shall get from your Excellency, and this Council, the consideration which we think the matter deserves and accordingly, I have contented myself with bringing the matter to your notice. I conclude by saying that we must

make a great deal more use of the African medical practitioner than we do at present and I ask your Excellency to bear this in mind.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Kano:—

Your Excellency: It gives me very great pleasure to see that we are to have a new hospital at Kano. It was impossible to carry on in the old rest houses and the time for the building of a new hospital is long overdue. I feel sure that the European community in Kano will be grateful.

The hospital outside the European cantonment was largely attended by non-natives and only to a very tiny extent was it used by the Hausas. I must say that there is a very wonderful work being done, but sickness and disease is very prevalent and there is a very heavy waiting list for operations, and anyone that knows Kano and the difficulties that exist with regard to surgical operations will welcome the new scheme as a step in the right direction.

I would like to say to the Honourable the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service in that connection that we hope that the Native Hospital will be extended and then the other natives will come into that hospital for treatment. I feel that if we do not increase our medical services, the work already commenced will go back.

Much progress has been made, but I wish I could report the same progress among the indigenous population. I would like to refer to Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1926 which was issued two days ago, and I would like to say that I thoroughly agree with my Honourable friend the Mining Member when he described this document as the saddest document ever laid on the Table of this House.

I will read three extracts. The first one is:—

“Lagos being the most important port and the main centre of import and export trade for Nigeria, the advent of plague, although it has occasioned a comparatively small number of deaths amounting to 344 in a population of 105,763 has demanded extensive preventive measures at very great expense out of all proportion to its ravages as compared to those due to the prevalence of cerebro-spinal fever and relapsing fever, which have been widespread throughout the Northern Provinces causing a very heavy mortality that cannot be stated in figures even approximately but is estimated to run into deaths amounting to hundreds of thousands.”

They are not our figures. They are figures published by the Government. The next one is:—

“In Kano and Katsina, where records of deaths are maintained by the Native Administrations, the mortality can be stated to have been appalling.”

The third is:—

“Lagos has a population of 105,763; in 1923, a year when the place was free from epidemics, the total deaths for the year amounted to 2,492 with a death rate per annum of 23.8 per 1,000 population. In 1924, the deaths, inclusive of those due to plague, amounted to 3,251 and the death rate was 26.9 per 1,000.

“Kano City with a population of 50,000, half that of Lagos in normal years, had an average number of deaths at 1,536 with an average death rate of 30 per 1,000 per annum but during 1924 the total deaths came to 6,384 with an average death rate of 130 per 1,000 population per annum.

“What has been said of the mortality in Kano can be said with safety of the rest of the towns and villages not only in the Kano Emirate and the Emirate of Katsina but also of Sokoto and Bornu in which Provinces the disease first inflicted such loss of human life.”

I venture to say that if such an appalling state of affairs were made known to the general public both here and at home there would be a general outcry. There cannot be any doubt that it is a very serious state of affairs. This is not a time for recrimination and play. I contend that the Director of Medical Service and the Lieutenant-Governor should enquire into it at once. I am perfectly aware that when we get on a subject like this there is a tendency

to overstate one's case but the figures I have given to you are not my figures and I do say that they call for the most energetic enquiry.

As regards medical fees, I pointed out to the Honourable the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service in Committee that I did not stigmatise the medical service as a whole but I do say that this state of affairs has been brought about by procrastination. I refuse to confine my remarks and experience to Kano and Zaria. I have lived a long time in the Northern Provinces and I know the attitude of the Government. I pointed out some figures of mortality to a medical officer the other day and he replied "it has always been so". It is quite true, Sir, that these diseases always have been prevalent in the north but they should not be. It is not the right spirit in which to look at the matter. I will go further and say that because disease has been rife it is no reason why it should continue. Beyond medical provision being made in the large towns it is a comparatively rare thing for a Doctor to be found in the, shall I say, rural districts in Nigeria. There are many many districts where a doctor never goes and has never been seen. The Honourable the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service still reports a shortage of seventeen doctors. I do not know anything about the conditions of service but I understand there is some diffidence among the medicos in accepting service in Nigeria. I do not know even whether that difficulty is unsurpassable. Is it that we do not offer the men enough? I would urge that steps should be taken at once to bring the Department up to strength and when it is at full strength it should tackle at once what may be the easily preventable diseases of the north. That is not too much to ask for surely. The figures I have quoted are only the figures for 1924. I tremble to think what the figures for 1925 will be. There were some appalling figures in the Hadeija Division so I have heard and I can assure you that if they are true the position is really as serious as in the epidemic years of 1923 and 1924. But where is the money to come from to set about this terrible business. It will all cost money, a tremendous sum, but difficulties have been got over in other parts of the world and there is no reason why they should not be got over here. We must have the money to tackle this problem. I say again that I venture to think that if figures like this were published in the British Press there would be a tremendous outcry. Are the difficulties insuperable? I was reading a few days ago of the wonderful work of General Goggas in the Panama Canal and I was struck with the businesslike way in which the terrible mortality in that region was tackled until it is almost if not quite clear of disease of a preventable nature. Cannot something be done for our suffering friends in the north. I do not wish to labour this point but if we do not take up this question seriously we shall not be doing our duty and we shall be failing to carry out those traditions which are characteristic of the British Colonial Service. (Applause.)

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Port Harcourt:—

Your Excellency: The Honourable the Mining Member wished me to state that he has been unavoidably called away or he would have had something to say on the medical report. We have looked through this report and while we have nothing but admiration for the Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service and his officers this report must be designated as lamentable, particularly pages 44 to 47.

There is one other subject I wish to mention and that is the question of a water supply for Port Harcourt. At present we are very lucky if we get ten tons in ten hours from the existing means of supply: in fact it cannot be called a supply at all and we are under very great difficulties in working the port without an adequate supply of water. The first thing a steamer requires when she comes into port is coal and water. We can give her the coal, plenty of coal, but we cannot give them the water they want, and we ought not to mislead shipowners into coming into Port Harcourt if we cannot give them what they want in the way of water. I ask that a water scheme for Port Harcourt may be considered by Government as soon as possible.

The Hon. the First Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency: I wish to say a few words and I think I can be very brief. There are one or two points on which I wish to address you. I must first congratulate the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government for the way in which he presided over the Finance Committee yesterday. I think that considering what

had taken place during the first two or three days the Chief Secretary to the Government did his best in a difficult situation and he was very courteous. Well with his usual courtesy we got through in record time. The Chief Secretary to the Government rather wanted to rush matters through, perhaps because he had spent weeks and even months in getting up these figures for the Finance Bill, but unofficial members cannot be expected to go thoroughly into this mass of detail in a day or two. If the Chief Secretary to the Government had persisted in his former attitude I am afraid that we should have sat not for two days only but for a week. However, fortunately, on the second day he gave us every opportunity of going through the whole thing and that very satisfactory. Yesterday as far as the sitting of the Committee was concerned it was just as smooth as anything could be.

I should like to call attention to the Medical Department. I think every one concerned is trying to do his best. The Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service presented a very big expenditure in the Estimates of his Department and I want to point out that he has been doing his very best to put things right, but there is only one point I wish to touch upon and that is the question of African doctors. That question was raised in Committee and it concerned the question of the native African doctors. I notice that provision is only made for six. The number ought to be increased particularly as there is a difficulty in getting medical men from Europe. Here is a very wide field, but local practitioners find their private practice more lucrative than service under the Medical Department and it seems to me a matter for consideration as to whether we should not offer more inducement to the young men who go to England to qualify in the profession so that on their return they could take service under the Government.

Then I might say a word about the Legal Department. There are a lot of young men here who are members of the legal profession and I suggest that the Attorney-General might consider the question of employing some of them in his Department. In the Gold Coast there are Africans who sit as Police Magistrates and there are Africans who act as Crown Prosecutors but here there is no provision made at all. I am rather disappointed at that omission. One knows how congested the local Bar is here and I think it is time that some encouragement is given by the Government to the men whose parents have sent them to England for the purpose of study.

Another point—the question of Assistant Superintendent in the Police Department. Last year a question was put as to why the salary of Mr. Kester was not increased. A promise was made that it would be looked into, but yesterday the Inspector-General of Police said that he did not think Mr. Kester has enough work to warrant an increase. He is not doing simply police work, and I think the Honourable Member for the Colony Division joined with me when the question was raised. Many times this officer has to cite reported cases whilst conducting criminal cases before the Magistrates and that shows that he has to study after office hours. Lagos is now getting so big that Mr. Kester has to be taken from his ordinary police work to conduct cases in court. I maintain that it is only reasonable that his emoluments should be increased. It is very desirable that an officer of his attainments should be encouraged.

As regards Native Courts we have been told that Government cannot do anything further in the matter. That is an argument which may cut both ways when the Education Bill comes to be considered. The difficulty is to get sufficiently educated interpreters. You get your officers from men who have left the primary schools but the great thing to consider is this that the liberty and life of men who are tried in the native courts is at stake. The judge or commissioner does not hear the right thing said by witnesses and the accused. The judge gets wrong statements interpreted and in the result the accused may lose his life. I can see the difficulty myself and it is difficult to know what to do under all the circumstances. I think that the matter might be left in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governors of the Northern and Southern Provinces who should see that proper interpreters be appointed.

The Hon. the Member for the Oyo Division:—

Your Excellency: I ought to express my regret that expenditure on the hospital at Calabar is contemplated when none is provided for Oyo. In our Province, Oyo town more especially, there are more people than at Calabar. I am aware that certain money is put down here for the Lagos hospital. If £24,000 is put down for

Calabar surely there ought to be something more provided for us instead of the £7,000 provided this year. Yesterday I was sorry to hear that there was no intention of giving us a hospital at Oyo-Town. It is the capital of the Province and where so many thousands of people are there is no chance of attacking an epidemic of disease when it breaks out. I have been giving expression to our hope that the question of a hospital would be considered but at the same time there is a very real need for a water supply and I hope the consideration of that will not be too long delayed. The £7,000 I mentioned earlier was for the native population but if there is a water supply it will benefit the European also. At Ibadan it is very dry and there are only three wells from which water can be got but recently every well was dry and no one got any water at all, but this state of things should not continue and I therefore ask Your Excellency that a water scheme may not be long delayed and I would say give us water instead of a hospital if I had to choose.

The Hon. the Member for the Egba Division:—

Your Excellency: before addressing you on the Estimates I wish to thank Your Excellency on behalf of the Alake and Council for the remarks in your address that the Alake and his Council are progressing in the art of governing their country and that the Egba Native Administration is more advanced than any other Administration in Nigeria. I felt very proud when such sentiments fell from your lips, Sir, and I can assure you that the Alake and his Council will ever consider it their duty to make their Administration more worthy of the confidence of the Central Government and worthy of emulation by the surrounding Provinces.

Referring to the Estimates I noticed an item under Head 34 of the Estimates for Police Barracks in Abeokuta and the amount to be expended is £2,650. There are not more than fifty policemen in Abeokuta and I do not understand what this expenditure is for unless it is intended to provide quarters for the Native Administration Police.

It is absurd to think of spending £2,650 on a mere handful of police. When the Estimates were in Committee I asked how many policemen there were in Abeokuta to be provided for and the Chief Secretary to the Government could not even inform me of the number. I would ask for enlightenment under this Head.

A question which is agitating the minds of the Egbas at present is the question of an adequate water supply. I understand this is under your consideration. I referred during last session to the scarcity of water in Abeokuta. It is simply deplorable the condition existing in this country for want of potable water. We would rather have a good supply of water than police barracks: and we do ask for your assistance in this.

We are very grateful for the provision made for a new hospital. We have a very good doctor in the present hospital and I hope when the new hospital is to be opened he will not be overlooked.

There are other provisions made under Head 34 to meet the needs of the community of Egbaland and for all these we are very thankful.

The provisions made for Abeokuta Province under "New item" for 1926-27 amount to a sum of £48,000.

Without vaunting in vain adulation Abeokuta contributes about double this amount to the support of the Central Government with her £40,000 sale of stone from Aro Quarry, £16,000 as moiety from taxes and over £10,000 from other sources. On the face of these things Kano is to be provided with water supply at a cost of £80,000, Enugu at a cost of £20,000, Abeokuta is still to continue to suffer as I have said from want of a good supply of water.

I have now to refer to the want of a Commercial Intelligence Bureau for Nigeria. A Bureau of this nature once existed here under the management of that highly intelligent officer Mr. Birthwistle as its chief. He was a very able gentleman and a very helpful medium between the Government and the Commercial elements. Having served as Manager in large business concerns here and abroad he was able to carry on very well indeed, he put in all his tact, all his interest and his invaluable experience so that within a short time he was able to justify the existence of this Department. He organised Agricultural shows in this country and travelled extensively in the interest of commerce round the Protectorates; but on his retirement his Department was closed.

Mr. Butrows, another able officer, suggested to the Government that a Commercial Intelligence Bureau should be established in London to work in conjunction with a branch office here but the whole matter eventually dropped.

Nigeria is ahead of the Gold Coast and it is not because the Gold Coast have a bureau in London today that I suggest one should be established for Nigeria but because our imports and exports which total over £20,000,000 have not been sufficiently advertised. I think an officer should be appointed and that there should be a head office in London and a branch here acting as a medium between the Government and the office in London.

The last Wembley Exhibition was very successful in bringing the Gold Coast forward and Nigeria should not fall behind the Gold Coast in matters of commercial enterprise. There is only one other matter to which I wish to refer and that is the Land Tenure question. Your Excellency will remember your promise in your reply to the welcome address presented to you by the Alake that the Abokuta Land Tenure question will be having your attention.

The Land Tenure System in Abokuta is far different from the general land question in Nigeria and I hope, Sir, that when you come to consider the whole land tenure question as affecting Nigeria as a whole you will not fail to give that special consideration to the case of Abokuta which it deserves.

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division:—

Your Excellency: I did not intend to intervene in this debate but I feel that I should be wanting in my duty if I did not make a few observations. Sir Hugh Clifford made use of some remarks which I shall always treasure. He said the relationship that existed between the members of the Council and the members of the Government should always be happy and they should do all they can to assist one another. Our duty here is to assist the Government in every possible way by bringing matters to their notice. That can only be done effectively on those few occasions in which we meet at this Council table and in Committee. Questions are not put with the intention of embarrassing the Government but with the object of eliciting answers. No one, not even the Chief Secretary to the Government himself, could take exception to the attitude of the Government Members on the Education Ordinance. I knew that they were almost bound to move the rejection of the second reading and accordingly we asked questions about it in Committee. The rumour is rife that there was an intention on the part of the Government to put a limitation to instruction in English in our schools and I sought to elicit a direct denial but I could not ascertain what the intentions were, hence the attitude we assumed towards the Ordinance. I now feel sure that there was no ground for that suspicion and am certain that when we come back here in two months time it will be found that there was no cause for alarm. We are here to elicit certain answers which will enable us to explain matters to the public to whom we owe a duty. I found myself in a difficult position and regret that the further consideration of the Education Bill has had to be postponed. Mr. Ester is a very able gentleman whom I respect and admire, and I think it is only due to him that I should make these observations.

The Honorable Member representing the Lagos Chamber of Commerce raised two very important questions. He referred to the policing of the lagoon as there are many robberies effected on the lagoon is, patrolling can never be an easy matter. I am very sorry to say that Heads of Departments appear very unwilling to state what is known as a matter of fact that their staff is short and they could do with more men and money. I enquired of the Acting Inspector-General of Police the other day whether he had enough men. His answer was in the affirmative, though it is a matter of general knowledge that the present strength of the Police is inadequate. At the present moment the policing of the lagoon is done by a mere handful of men. There are no less than six openings into the main lagoon; such being the case it requires, to my mind, a fair number of men if the patrol is to be in any way effective. The thieves who carry on their business during the night, raiding lighters, are extremely clever and have a regular code of signals with their confederates on shore and afloat, who are not slow in communicating the approach of the patrol. Complaints from merchants are frequent and numerous. In the interest of trade motor launches must be employed on the lagoon by the police.



As regards the Medical Department the report laid on the table is very bad reading. There is not the slightest intention on the part of any member of this Council to cast any aspersion on the gentlemen engaged in the Department. The extreme difficulty under which they have been working is a matter of common knowledge. The report in question shows that disease of one kind or the other has exacted a very large toll of the population of the Northern Provinces and gives rise to considerable uneasiness in that what is to prevent their spread to us in the Southern Provinces? There seems to be considerable difficulty in bringing the staff of the Medical Department to full strength. In fact we appear to be boycotted. I suggest, Sir, that encouragement be given to our young men to proceed to England to qualify for the Medical profession. The country can do with at least a couple of hundred African medical men if Nigeria is to be properly staffed to cope with diseases which are decimating the population. Before I sit down I beg to acknowledge the very skilful manner in which the Estimates have been presented to this Council by the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, Mr. Baddeley. Honourable Members must have taxed the patience of the Chief Secretary to the Government when in Committee, and I am sure he must recognise that there was never any intention to obstruct. I therefore pay tribute to his patience, courtesy and tact in steering the Estimates through the Committee in the way he did.

The Hon. the Second Lagos Member:

Your Excellency: I desire to make a few observations on one or two points but before doing so I desire to express my opinion on what has been said by the Honourable the Member for the Colony Division as regards the position of the Unofficial Members in this Council.

I quite agree that under our constitution it is not possible for them to offer such an opposition which, if successful, might lead to the overthrow of your Excellency's administration and substitute another headed, shall I say, by the Honourable the Member for Shipping with the Honourable and learned Commercial Member for Calabar as the Attorney-General. No, Sir, such a thing is not possible, but I do think it is the duty of the Unofficial Members of this Council to offer strenuous opposition to any Government measure or policy which, in their opinion, is not conducive to the best interest of the country and I venture to say no one appreciates the necessity for such an opposition more than your Excellency.

Like my predecessors who have spoken I desire to speak on the subject of the Medical Department because, when we find that this port has been in quarantine for 203 days out of 365, it is obvious that all is not well. I have no doubt that the medical authorities are doing their best, but it is necessary for us to point out what we think are defects in the system. I have read with very great interest the report of the Principal Medical Authorities of the West African Colonies who recently met at Accra. That report contains many debatable and contentious points but one can see all the way through it the desire for the improvement of the health of the people they serve. I look forward with interest to the future when I hope to see the suggestions which are made in that report developed on practical lines and I venture to hope that legislation will in the very near future be introduced for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations therein contained.

As regards education, I do not agree with my Honourable friend the Member for the Colony Division for apologising for asking that the second reading of the Bill should be postponed. It is not due to any desire for obstruction that we think that the second reading should not take place at this Session of the Council, but when Government introduces a Bill which will have the effect of changing the entire system of education in the Southern Provinces and Colony without giving Honourable Members an opportunity of understanding what the proposals really are, Honourable Members feel their responsibility in the matter and every opportunity should be given to all the important sections of the community to express their opinion on it. That is the reason why we have adopted the attitude we have taken and the delay will only tend, in my opinion, to make for improvement in the provisions of the Bill. I read with some interest the Sessional Paper which has been prepared by the Honourable the Director of Education and to my mind that Sessional Paper shows that the Honourable gentleman appreciates the defects in the present educational system of this Colony and that he appreciates what is wanted in this Colony. I was sorry that no reference was made in the Bill to compulsory

education. My friends the First and Third Lagos Members will remember that, during the election in the year 1923, we put that prominently before the electorate and in the very first speech which the Honourable the First Lagos Member made in this Council he strongly advocated compulsory education. I know that it is not possible to have compulsory education for the whole of the Southern Provinces, but it might very well be possible to try the experiment within the municipal area of Lagos, but as this is not a speech on the second reading of the Bill I will postpone further remarks on that question until the Bill comes before us again for second reading.

Referring to the question of Native Courts, I had intended to second the motion moved by the Honourable the Member for Calabar just for the purpose of giving the Government an opportunity of stating its views, and I was very pleased with the frank admission made by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, as to the existence of abuses and certain amount of corruption in the Native Courts. One point should not be overlooked in dealing with this matter and that is that the native associates these Courts, Native Court, Provincial Court and Supreme Court with the British Government and he feels that they are part and parcel of the administration of the British Government.

I desire finally to associate myself with the remarks of the Honourable the First Lagos Member and also of the Honourable the Member for the Colony Division in the tribute they have paid to the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government. Things at first did not run very smoothly but we soon got to know and to appreciate each others views, so much so that, at the end of the Committee, a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to him. I should like to pay the same tribute to the several Heads of Departments who gave us such valuable assistance during the sittings of the Finance Committee. Your Excellency, I think you have every reason to be satisfied with your first Legislative Council.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: I should like to make a few general remarks. First of all I should like to associate myself cordially with the expression of welcome to Your Excellency which was voiced when the Council first met.

I think that if when your Excellency delivers an Address to this Council nothing is said about it, it is paying your Excellency but scant courtesy. I have a few things to say about your Excellency's Address.

The first thing I should like to say is with regard to the obvious omission of a statement of the general policy to be adopted in the future. I draw attention to it but I do not seriously criticise it, for I fully appreciate the first paragraph of your Excellency's Address, and I take it that when your Excellency addresses this Council a year hence we shall hear very definitely an outline of your Excellency's policy for the future.

In the public press we have seen certain statements which your Excellency has made in England, and those appear to contain two definite expressions of policy, namely that your Excellency is in favour of decentralisation and the improvement of transport in the country. I trust that the absence of any reference to those two points of policy in your address to this Honourable Council does not mean that your Excellency has in any way changed your views or abated your enthusiasm for those two points of policy.

His Excellency:—

I have not.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

I am glad to hear your Excellency say that. Decentralisation is a point I have always endeavoured to bring before this country and the Government. I have always advocated for instance that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Southern Provinces should have his headquarters outside of Lagos. I have been advocating that for years, and about five years ago, when your Excellency's predecessor, Sir Hugh Clifford, had taken over the seals of office as Governor, I was assured that this particular act of decentralisation was "well on the political horizon." Now, Sir, I have asked the same question again at this session of the Council, and I am not quite clear, from the answer given, whether it is nearer or farther away. The answer I got yesterday was not as definite as the answer I got five years ago from Sir Hugh Clifford. The answer I received

this time was that the whole question must be considered very carefully before any definite answer could be given. There is a great deal of anxiety as to this matter. This anxiety is not merely academic; it is real and widespread throughout the Southern Provinces. There is undoubtedly throughout the Protectorate a feeling—and I am not speaking only of the commercial community, I am speaking of Government officials and the natives themselves—that there is in Lagos a lack of sympathy with their conditions of life and with their work, or as one officer put it to me “those people who sleep always in the same beds in Lagos have no real sympathy with us.” The opinion is shared by many people in the Eastern Provinces, that the Headquarters staff know really very little of the difficulties of some of the political officers in the outlying districts and there is a feeling that you have kept our Lieutenant-Governor with you, amongst you in Lagos, and that he is apt to be swayed too much by political considerations in Lagos and that his independent judgment accordingly suffers—

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division:—  
Not no!

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Some people think so. The Lieutenant-Governor is also Administrator of the Colony of Lagos and there is, I should say, a serious difficulty for a Lieutenant-Governor in holding the scales as between the Southern Provinces and Lagos when a question comes up as between Lagos and the Protectorate. In this connection I am reminded of Pook-bah, and when financial questions come up involving a weighing up of Lagos interests and provincial interests, I am afraid that the Lagos interests are inclined to say to the Administrator “come over here where the Lieutenant-Governor can't hear us.” The remedy for all this is to have the Lieutenant-Governor stationed outside Lagos.

As regards education it has been indicated to me in certain quarters that the small part I took in opposing the second reading of the Education Bill was a grave disservice to the education of the African people. I am very glad to say that so far there has been no such expression of opinion from the African people themselves. Their opinion seems to be entirely the other way. I want, and they want, to have the matter properly and fully considered.

While on the subject of education may I draw attention to another point of principle. All are agreed that this is a new departure in education: a new era and a new policy is to be inaugurated. I am unable to understand why this occasion has been chosen for, what seems to me to be an unpremeditated thing, to “second” an officer from another department to the important office of Director of Education. A strong man is required to carry out the policy as outlined in the memorandum by the Director of Education, and it seems to be generally agreed that we have the right man in the present Director of Education, but I cannot understand why he should be only “seconded.” It is impossible, I should think, for the enormous amount of work which will fall on his shoulders to be completed within a period of two years, which I am told is the period of secondment contemplated. The Director of Education himself, in the very enlightening memorandum which has been circulated to Honourable Members, draws attention to the necessity of “continuity of policy.” I think that you should have a permanent Director of Education. I asked a question about this in Committee and the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government assured me that the Nigerian Government was not responsible for this curious procedure, that it was the idea of the Secretary of State. I should very much like to hear from your Excellency, or the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government, what are the reasons for this departure from the ordinary practice, and how it can possibly be justified.

One word on the general financial position of the country. In your Excellency's Address it is made clear that, taking round figures, the position as regards the budget is that we are budgeting for a revenue of eight millions and an expenditure of seven millions, that is for a surplus of one million. But by reason of the fact that we are spending more than the surplus of one million on capital works, which should properly be charged to Loan Works, we shall have a deficit instead of a surplus.

It seems to me that this great, undeveloped, rich, country can well stand an annual expenditure of more than eight millions, having regard to the proportion which exists between our revenue and our loans. Speaking in round figures again the position

appears to me to be this: we have a loan due by this country of only twenty millions and against that we have got a revenue of eight millions and it seems to me to be perfectly respectable finance to consider the possibility of departing a little from the policy of meeting expenditure from current revenue for capital works. I think that all the Commercial Members of this Council will agree that it is almost an axiom of modern business finance that capital developments should be made out of loans. If we look round nowadays at capital developments undertaken by commercial concerns or by nations we find that principle in vogue. I should like to know what the Honourable Treasurer has to say about that. The Government ought to keep in mind the possibility of refraining from spending our revenue on capital works so long as we maintain a reasonable proportion between our loan and our revenue.

In regard to the estimates, it is usual for them to come in for a certain amount of criticism in Committee and in this case they have come out of the carping criticism, as usual, with a very substantial increase instead of a decrease. It is said in the report of the Select Committee that the effect of the recommendations of the Committee is to increase the expenditure for the year by £204,077 and to decrease it by £249,975, and that the net decrease is therefore £45,898. That net decrease is due to this, that £181,000 worth of expenditure appeared twice in the accounts and had to be withdrawn. It was simply a mistake in accounting. That item simply came out: it was not the result of any economising, and instead of a decrease there seems to be a very real net increase of about £135,000 as the result of the Select Committee's activities. I have said over and over again that it is not right, nor is it fair, that the responsibility for the finance of the country should be saddled on the unofficial members of this Council. A committee consisting of unofficial members cannot criticise the estimates of this Government, with a view to any substantial economising, by spending a couple of days asking questions of the officials responsible for the items of expenditure. For an example of how economies *can* be effected, take the instance of Colonel Hammond coming out to report on the railway administration. He didn't sit down for two days asking questions. He spent a long time in examining the railway accounts, and the staff of the railway: he travelled all over the railway system, and saw things for himself. He was an expert on railways and as a result of his thorough examination he did effect considerable economies. Unofficial Members of the Council cannot have the same opportunity of investigating matters for themselves. We were reminded to-day that a saving of £880,000 had been effected as the result of Colonel Hammond's advice on the relaying of the track Minna-Kaduna and reconstruction of bridges Zungeru-Minna, and that that sum is now available for other objects. It was as a result of the intervention of Colonel Hammond that that money was not to be spent on the subject it was earmarked for. I have said over and over again that the responsibility for the finances of this country should not be said to be upon the shoulders of the Unofficial Members of this Council. In no single case in the Estimates did we have the assistance of any official members other than the head of department whose vote at the time was under review. I sometimes wish that we might have an opposition and turn out the present Government. I should rather like that to happen, not that I want to undertake the office which one Honourable Member suggested I might take, but in order that I might be privileged to see, for instance, the Director of Public Works criticising the Estimates of that Department of which he has so thorough knowledge. Similarly, in the Council and Committee, as we have them now, I should like to see the General Manager of the Railway endeavouring to elicit facts as to the activities of the Marine Department and offering pungent criticisms of that Department. There are many points of similarity in the engineering branches of the Railway and of the Marine, and the Head of one of these Departments is better qualified to criticise the Estimates of the other Department than any unofficial member can possibly be. But it is apparently no part of the duty of the Head of the Railway Department to criticise the Marine Department or of the Director of Marine to criticise the Railway, although they are both members of this Council just as much as the unofficial members. We had an instance in Committee. The Director of Marine asked for money to be voted for the purchase of a rivet-making machine. It was pointed out that the railway had a perfectly good rivet-making machine that could turn out rivets at a certain rate. I do not remember what the output was. The Honourable the Director

of Marine did not know that the railway had a rivet-making machine nor could he inform the Committee whether the railway machine could supply the Marine rivet requirements or not. That was a trivial matter, but it does illustrate the difficulty in the way of unofficial members effectually criticising the Estimates, manifested as they are in their criticisms by official members. Your Excellency's predecessor was never tired of telling us that the creation of this Council had relieved the Government of responsibility for the finances of Nigeria. I shall always disagree with that view. That responsibility remains with the Government so long as no enquiry such as Colonel Hammond's is made into the different Departments.

The Hon. the Third Lagos Member:

Your Excellency: this being the first Session of the Legislative Council over which you have presided I beg leave to associate myself with the Honourable the Member for the Colony Division and on behalf of myself and the community I represent I wish to extend to your Excellency a hearty welcome to you in your new sphere of administrative activity. I do so in the hope that during your tenure of office the relationship that exists between your Government and the Unofficial Members of this Council will be marked by one unbroken record of cordiality and loyal support which is such an important factor towards the attainment of a successful administration. I believe that that may not be an impossibility if the Executive will deign to extend not an indulgent but a sympathetic ear to the wishes and aspirations of the governed which I can assure you we wish to make known to you as the accredited representatives of the people. As a Member representing the multiplicity area of Lagos I feel it incumbent on me to say that it is unfortunately the case at present that we cannot get that sympathetic hearing which would do so much for the contentment of the population. The town of Lagos has a considerable amount of doubts and fears and we hope that it will be one of the early acts of your Excellency's Administration to remove any such doubts and fears so that Lagos may be a contented place. With these few opening remarks I would ask your leave while I make a few observations on the budget. It will be remembered by Honourable Members that the time when this Council was inaugurated synchronised with the time when the commercial firms in England were calling for an enquiry into the West African Administration on the lines of the Incheape Commission, and Honourable Members will recall how strongly Sir Hugh Clifford opposed such an enquiry, unless the Unofficial Members failed in scrutinising with any degree of efficiency, the draft Estimates when brought before the Finance Committee. He was not prepared to contemplate anything of the sort.

I mention this fact for although the Finance Committee may not be the proper place to discuss Government policy, the fact remains that the estimated expenditure is so closely connected with the policy that the Government will adopt during the year that it is difficult, if not impossible, to discuss the one without the other. That will perhaps explain to the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government why we were using the Finance Committee as a means of discussing Government policy. The fact remains that although he did not, at the start, relish the attitude we adopted, we eventually convinced him of our honesty of purpose that at the end we felt it our duty to extend to him our congratulations on the expedition with which the Committee got through its work.

May I just say a few words with regard to the Printing Department. It must be a source of gratification to the Executive and to the Head of that Department that this officer's efficient management and control of his Department has won for him a request from Unofficial Members that the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government should be asked to recommend to the Secretary of State that his emoluments and allowances be reconsidered. I have no objection to that and I certainly do not quarrel with it but although that officer holds a very responsible position the fact remains that his duties are primarily, if not entirely, of a supervisory nature, and I am arguing that if he has effected such efficiency in his Department without their assistance and cooperation such a high standard of efficiency could not have been attained, and I suggest that those officers should also come in for a measure of appreciation as well as the head of their Department. I am asking also that when the recommendations are being made a few, one or two, of the old African servants of the Department who have long and meritorious

service as compositors to their credit, men who have been at their maximum for a number of years and have no prospect of any further increase, and yet continue to discharge their duties with fidelity and zeal, may come in for their share of commendation and that they may also partake of that crumb which falls from the master's table.

As regards the Medical Department I hear with pleasure that we are to have a pipe-borne sewerage scheme. I only mention that in passing to show the gratification the people feel that it should be one of your Excellency's first acts, and I do not think I shall be betraying official confidence if I say that I have reason to believe that recommendations have already been made to that effect.

The question of swamp reclamation is one which is within the purview of the Sanitary Department and swamp reclamation has an important bearing on segregation, segregation as between insect and man. Segregation between man and man is a policy which has been advocated and pursued at enormous cost to the revenue and is only a means to an end, segregation between insect and man.

The Sanitary Department did not, however, appear to be getting the satisfactory results for which they were working and so much is that the case that the Sanitary authorities have deemed it necessary to extend their activities to cutting down banana trees and pine-apples in an endeavour to destroy the breeding places of mosquitoes.

To effect the reclamation of those areas will go a great way in effecting segregation as between insect and man because if mosquito breeding places are reduced to a great extent the place will presumably become less liable to disease and the health of the whole community will improve.

Another matter is the difficulty of getting African practitioners into the service of the Government. There are very few African doctors in the West African Medical Service yet there are a number with very high qualifications, men of experience and men skilled in the methods and practice of surgery, but it seems that their service for the purpose of emoluments and allowances are measured in accordance with their nationality that is to say by the colour of their skin.

I am in no sense suggesting that the African should aspire to be the overlord of the European but the fact remains that he has to undergo the same expense and the same risks in his training as the European. He comes out here and his facilities for practice with the Government are so restricted that when in a few years he reaches his maximum there he must remain even though he continues in the service for donkeys years. He stays there unless his Head of Department recommends him for some special appointment. I suggest that some encouragement should be given in the way of seniority allowance. I do not exactly know what seniority allowance means but at any rate it is an addition to his pay. Such an allowance would certainly give encouragement to Africans entering the medical service of the Government and satisfy the idiosyncrasies peculiar to every nationality. In a country like this, where the great majority of the people have yet to appreciate the superiority of the European methods of treatment over that of the African practitioner, a great deal of tact must be exercised but the African practitioners ought to be great and valuable assets to the Medical Service and therefore in my opinion they should be especially encouraged.

I shall beg your leave, Sir, while I refer to one more point in connection with the privilege of free ocean passages to some African officials. It is well known, Sir, that before 1913 (I think that is the year, I am speaking from memory), almost every native that came here enjoyed the privilege of a free ocean passage to and from his home outside the Colony when on vacation leave, and it seems rather hard that those who are still entitled to the privilege are now required by a recent regulation to forego it as a condition precedent to accepting promotion to a staff appointment which they merit by long service covering a period of many years. There is an old French adage which says "rank carries with it some obligation". It is rather hard that those Africans who have risen to the rank of Office Assistant or Assistant Accountant should be expected to travel in ocean boats second-class. They have a certain amount of prestige to maintain and they feel that it will be derogatory to the prestige and dignity of the service to which they belong and of which they are quite proud, if they travel any other than first-class. The result is that there is an enormous amount of expense thrown on their pockets and they are hardly compensated by the increase in salary

attached to their posts. Their posts are described as posts of responsibility and I do ask that some concession may be made as regards these ocean passages. I thank your Excellency for the time you have allowed me and I hope that the few remarks I have made will be considered at the proper time and place.

The Hon. the Member for Calabar :

Your Excellency : During the course of this Council's Meeting I have heard many criticisms levelled at the Government, but when Honourable Members got up to speak in this Council I have noticed that some of them are afraid to speak their minds because they may be considered extremists. There was a good deal of talk about the Medical Department and in Committee, and although Honourable Members started by criticising the Department, it is clear to my mind that they aimed at the Head of the Department or at some officer or another. I say that if there is anything which Honourable Members think wrong or should not be included in the Departmental Estimates they should be allowed to criticise freely. For instance if Elder Dempster's Agent said that he could not get labourers to work his ship the first thing the Company would do would be to institute an enquiry. The Government, however, do not think some enquiry into the shortage of Medical officers is necessary. We are told in the Medical report that hundreds of thousands of people are dying in the Northern Provinces, and that during the last year the Port was in quarantine for no fewer than 203 days out of 365. You cannot come to Lagos without being vaccinated or inoculated because of disease in the country. We are ready to criticise but we are afraid to ask for a remedy which we think will allow us to know whether the Director of Medical and Sanitary Service is doing his work, or whether this person or that person is doing his work, or whether the trouble is caused by something over which the Director of Medical and Sanitary Service, or his officers, have no control. I think that this is a time for plain speaking and I say that an enquiry into the administration of the Medical and Sanitary Service would do much good and would let the people in this country know what is being done for them.

As regards the riot at Calabar, that of course was a most regrettable incident and I am not here to defend the Calabar women who were responsible for the incident, but I must say that if the whole fiasco connected with this riot had been placed before your Excellency, I think you would either not have mentioned it at all in your Address or someone other than the Charge would have got a warning. It is strange that this incident happened on the 1st of April. It is strange that there was not a single responsible Political Officer at Calabar that day. The Resident was away, the District Officer, somehow or other, managed to find himself in hospital, and the only man who was left in charge was a cadet who knew nothing of the political situation at all. When I say that for about three or four days before the incident occurred, the women of Calabar had been trying to get an interview with the District Officer and that they never succeeded in getting any responsible person to discuss these matters with them, and also that the man in charge of the administration at Calabar on the night before had ordered a fence around the market, rightly or wrongly, the people felt that something was being done which ought not to be done and these things could not fail to put their backs up. The result was that the women took matters into their own hands and as a protest against the state of the market, they pulled down a portion of the fence. I have some regard for their action; the men failed to go to the District Officer but the women took steps to place their grievance before the proper authority. You should also know that although these women are supposed to have caused a riot they went about in a peaceable way, they even went to churches to pray, and it was a great mistake on the part of the Commissioner of Police, who probably thought they were going to create a disturbance, that he had them arrested. If he had spoken to them quietly this incident would never have happened. If your Excellency will only look into the facts you will, I feel sure, say that Calabar ought not to be condemned for the incident.

Then as to the policy of the Government with regard to the land in this country. Whenever the Government want land they either have to ask the people to make an agreement, or if the people are unwilling for an agreement they have to put into force the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance. I asked at the last Meeting of this Council the amount of money paid to the people of Iknugu by the Government for land acquired from the people of Iknugu. You will find the answer of the Lieutenant-Governor in the published

Debates. It is evident that some of this land has been let to merchants and the Government are having the money derived therefrom paid to revenue, yet the arrangements with the real owners of the land have not been completed and, according to the Lieutenant-Governor, it is impossible to say when they will be completed, and we are told that the Government is a trustee for the people of Nigeria.

There is the same thing in Port Harcourt; all these things appear to me to be cruel and unjust. The original arrangement there was that the people should receive a lump sum of £2,000. Later the Government offered £500 per annum. About a year ago the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, admitted that the 1924 revenue from the land acquired at Port Harcourt amounted to £3,000. That being the case I am suggesting that £500 a year for the people who own the land is utterly inadequate. When this matter was under consideration and negotiations were going on the Chief Justice offered to become an arbitrator for these people but the people somehow did not like the idea. I think, in justice to them, it is my duty to point out that it is a great mistake for the Head of the Judicial Department to act as an arbitrator in land disputes where the people do not agree, particularly as, in the event of there being any dispute or dissatisfaction with regard to the award, that very matter would come before the Courts of which the Chief Justice is the head—

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division:—

Order, order.

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: If I have made a mistake in what I have said I submit to your ruling. It is not fair, when the plain truth is being spoken in this Council for Honourable Members to make such a noise.

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division:—

Order, order.

The Hon. the Member for Calabar:—

The Honourable Member may cry "Order", but these people are complaining that they have not had justice done to them.

His Excellency:—

We will continue the third reading of the Bill to-morrow morning.

*The Council adjourned at 6.5 p.m.*

### Saturday, 20th February, 1926—10 a.m.

His Excellency:—

We will now continue the third reading of the Supply Bill. Does anyone else wish to address the Council?

The Hon. the Member for the Ibo Division:—

Your Excellency: as one of the Members representing the people of Ibo, I feel that I ought to speak although I am fully aware that I follow Honourable Members who spoke yesterday on a variety of subjects and on what we have as unofficial members put before the Government. Still, representing the Protectorate, that portion of the Southern Provinces called Ibo, I feel that considering the vast number of people in that area I ought not to keep silent. Therefore I have the honour to present to your Excellency a note of welcome to this Administration to which you have been appointed by His Majesty the King and to ask that in carrying out the duty of your office you will not lose sight of the interests of the people of this country. There is a principle that the interests of the people should be the first and highest consideration of Government. Representing as I do the indigenous population I think it is only right that I should emphasise this point and in making these statements I fully realise that it affects the rulers as well as the ruled. I welcome your Excellency to our shores. (*Succeeding remarks inaudible.*) One of the first things I have to do is to thank your Excellency and the Heads of Departments for what has been disclosed to us in these Estimates. Provision has been made for the staff, the official members of the Government, and also for the people of the various Provinces and Divisions. In doing so I feel I want to point out, without intending to be ungrateful, that I hope Government will not lose sight of the fact that the Estimates will be the basis of expenditure for the following year and that they will see that the money is well spent.



The question of education I want to call attention to, because last year I spoke on that subject but I was not sure that I knew what I was talking about. I felt that education was absolutely necessary for us but in what directions it should be carried out I did not know. I spoke very vaguely then. I see, however, by what has happened in this Council, that Government has not lost sight of the need of educating the people in various branches and departments of life. Now it is receiving the very urgent attention of Government, so much so that Government endeavoured to hurry the Education Bill through, but at the request of Honourable Members its consideration has been suspended for two months. I must not mislead your Excellency and the Government with regard to that. In the past few weeks we natives have had cause for alarm. No wise man will carry on a work for a number of years and then throw cold water on it and then go back to the same work. I hope you will take notice of this cause for alarm. We have heard that boys in the Upper Sixth Standard are not to be taught English, this is most astonishing, but only in the vernacular. Who is to teach them? This line of thought occupies our minds and it means that the Government is not wise in its intention to go back and undo what has been done for so many years.

The next thing I wish to call attention to is the question of health. The water supply we have been asking for is now on foot and an engineer will be sent to do the work, but there has been among us during the last year such a large number of deaths and there is no means of finding out what the mortality has been from the statistics. Nobody knows the cause of such wholesale deaths among us. I beg to call the attention of the Medical Department to this, and to ask them to take this into consideration and consider what can be done to prevent so large a number of people dying among us. It is only right for us who are concerned to cry out and perhaps by crying out it will expedite matters.

With these few remarks your Excellency I beg to close by only adding one word. I associate myself with the expressions of the Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar as regards the question of checking the Estimates. The responsibility is that of the Unofficial Members. We cannot sufficiently check the figures as compiled by the Departments, and I point that out because it more or less exonerates us if it appears to Government that, when we come to this Council, criticisms are raised which may be considered unduly strict. We cannot help ourselves when such a responsibility rests upon our shoulders.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

Your Excellency: On behalf of myself and on behalf of the people I represent I welcome your Excellency into Nigeria and I beg to express the wish that your Excellency may be endowed with great wisdom and good health and that your administration of this great and important Dependency will be fraught with considerable success. It is common knowledge in Nigeria that your Excellency has brought with you details of a gigantic scheme for the improvement of the transport facilities of Nigeria; and I sincerely hope that when this scheme comes to be put into operation you will not fail to remember that transport facilities are badly needed in the Niger Division and on the Niger. At present this undertaking is in the hands of a commercial firm, but that firm has to look into its own interests first in the matter of transport and the result is that the African traders on the Niger are greatly handicapped in transporting produce and goods as between the inland and the sea-ports. Before the war the Marine Department afforded great relief in this connection but owing to the activities that had to be undertaken by the Marine Department in other directions after the war, the Marine transport service has been withdrawn to a considerable extent and I now understand that the only two vessels that ply on the Niger are going to be withdrawn also. I think that this important matter should have the immediate attention of the Government. Both of the Honourable Members for Calabar, during the course of their speeches, made mention of the policy of the Government in disregarding the opinions of the representatives of the people while considering various matters of local political interest, and I wish to voice the same sentiment in this connection because I know that this policy has been the cause of very many misunderstandings on the part of the people, and if a little bit more co-operation and opportunity for discussion could be given to the representatives of the people I think a lot of misunderstanding will be avoided.

I will just compare this matter in a question that has arisen in this Council. When the new Education proposals were brought forward there was a lot of misunderstanding among the Unofficial Members; they were under the impression that the Director of Education had a lot to do with the plans of the scheme. That was due to the fact that the Director of Education, I believe, made a tour in the Southern Provinces in connection with this proposal, but while he consulted official heads in the various centres which he visited, and I daresay he also consulted representatives of various Missionary societies, it has come to the knowledge of the Unofficial Members that he did not consult the opinion of the people through their proper representatives. This caused a lot of misunderstanding but I am glad to say that since the Bill was read a first time I have been afforded an opportunity of paying a visit to the Director of Education and he has enlightened me in many respects. (Honourable Members: Hear, hear.) In any case I think it is my duty to ask the Government to try and avoid as much as possible this policy of not consulting the representatives of the people.

I want to say something about the Provincial Courts. This is a question which is a grave one and one that has entailed a lot of arguments and petitions to the Government and up to this time no change has been made in the Ordinance. I do not intend to argue the legal aspects of this Ordinance because I am not competent to do that. I only desire to place a few facts before your Excellency and this Council about it.

The first is that when this Ordinance was enacted the people of the Protectorate had no representation in the legislation and the Ordinance was, as it were, forced on the people without hearing their views about it and it has been said that the people are content and are satisfied with it. It is my duty to say to this Honourable Council that the people are not satisfied with it. Instances can be given where even the rulers of the people, when they get involved in criminal charges and important land matters, had to run to lawyers to bring the matters alleged against them before the Supreme Court; that goes to show that the people feel that they cannot in the Provincial Courts get the justice which they consider they can get in the Supreme Court. Before the advent of the Government in the old days when the country was more or less in a primitive state the system of having capital charges tried by a learned Judge was introduced. In those days the administration of the Protectorate was in the hands of the Chartered Company who centred the greater part of their interests in the products of the country. Even in those barbarous days they found it necessary to have a learned Judge, and this learned Judge was to be found in Asaba and there he tried all capital charges and all important land and other cases. In my question during the session of this Council I asked the Government to confirm the statement that seventy-two persons were executed in Nigeria during 1924 after trials in the Courts without being allowed the aid of Counsel. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, said in answer, that Government confirmed that statement, and he also said that during 1925, sixty-two persons were similarly executed after trial in the Provincial Courts and nine after trials in the Native Courts without the aid of Counsel.

I beg to submit that this matter is a very serious one and one that should engage the attention of your Excellency and this Honourable Council. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, also said that any person who desires to be tried by the Supreme Court can apply for a transfer, and that the Commissioner of the Provincial Court is bound to forward the application to the Chief Justice. I am bound to say that it is not common knowledge amongst the people of the Protectorate that the Commissioner of the Provincial Court is bound to send every application for transfer to the Chief Justice. But it is common knowledge that the Commissioners do send these transfers at their own will and if sent they either recommend the transfer or they do not recommend it. I submit therefore that the recommendations which the Commissioners make tend to prejudice the case of the applicant. It is time now that some attention should be given to this Ordinance. At the time of its enactment the country was more or less in a primitive state, but it is generally known that changes have occurred in this Colony and Protectorate and the conditions existing now are not what they used to be in 1914.

The matter of sending the evidence of cases tried in the Provincial Court to the Chief Justice for his decision has been talked about by people who are in a better position to judge, but I would like to quote the opinion of a distinguished personage, Sir William Geary, who was at one time the Attorney-General of this Colony—

The Hon. the Member for the Colony Division:—

No, no; Gold Coast.

The Hon. the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

In one of his articles in the *African World* on the administration of justice in Nigeria Sir William Geary said "the mere reading over of evidence is a poor substitute for a trial before a qualified Judge and defence by Counsel, but as a safeguard it is the merest eyewash".

Our late Lieutenant-Governor of the Southern Provinces, Colonel Sir Harry Moorhouse, an able administrator and one possessed of very wide experience in Nigerian affairs, in his covering minute dealing with a report of the Secretary for Native Affairs in connection with Native and Provincial Courts wrote "if we practically compel a suitor to take a case of a particular nature to a certain tribunal whether he wishes to do so or not we must give him some right of appeal".

I fail to see that at present. The Provincial Court Ordinance does not provide for that right of appeal. In the Province where I come from, the Senior Resident, while he is in his office, is accessible to representations that may be made to him and we do not experience great difficulty in this connection, but he is not always there and I cannot apply this policy to the officers who are in charge of other Provinces and there I want to bring it to your notice that the time has come when the Provincial Court Ordinance ought to be amended in order to meet the present conditions and requirements of the people.

The Hon. the Member for the Rivers Division:

Your Excellency: I rise to say a few words with regard to the Provincial Courts. After all is said and done the officers are really in the hands of the interpreters. They do not know very often what the case is about and they are apt very frequently to be misled as to what a witness says. The only way to prevent this is to get more properly qualified interpreters. I am sure Honourable Members would not like to stand before a tribunal on a capital charge knowing that what is essential to their case may not be correctly interpreted, and it may mean a loss of life. I wonder what the feelings of the officer who tried the case would be if he knew that he had sent a man to his doom on evidence which had been wrongly interpreted. I wonder what an English judge would feel like after he had sent a man to his death on evidence which turned out to have been wrongly interpreted? How much more in a country like Africa, where the interpreters have an imperfect knowledge of English, is a man's life liable to be forfeited by reason of misinterpretation? I don't envy the man who has to try these cases with a knowledge that he may have to convict a man on evidence which is not truly interpreted. I think it is high time now that all capital charges should be sent to the Supreme Court. His Majesty's judges are trained to weigh evidence while the Provincial Courts officers are not trained to weigh evidence. It is not their life's work, it is a judge's life's work. If this could be done, all capital charges sent to the Supreme Court, then I think we should get some satisfaction. Your Excellency, I pray you and this Council that all capital charges may be sent to the Judges to be tried.

As regards education I have not much to talk about; the only drawback is the want of moral courage amongst the people. If this new Board of Education for all schools is set up without first of all consulting the missions as to their views on the Bill, each denomination has its own views, it will be the termination of mission work in this country. The people must be given time to think about it. They have got to think for themselves and for their children. The children have no respect for their parents in this country and when there is no respect for parents there is no respect for teachers and those in authority. I will only say one more word and that is that the fact that Government desires to bring in this Bill shows the growing importance of Nigeria, and I fervently hope that this country will make great strides forward not only in education but in commerce and health.

The Hon. the Director of Public Works:—

I think I can ease the mind of the Honourable the Commercial Member for Port Harcourt in the matter of the supply of water to shipping at Port Harcourt. When the necessity for an increased supply was recognised, consideration was given to a single scheme for meeting all requirements. It was found, however, that, as electric power would shortly be available for pumping, separate schemes would be equally satisfactory and more economical. The existing supply to the European reservation, Trading area and African Hospital, which has recently been extended, remains as one section. The Public Works Department is now carrying out the section to supply the African Town and, as my Honourable friend the General Manager of the Railway reminds me, provision is made under Head 36, item 34 of the Estimates now before the Council for a supply to the wharves and shipping.

The question of the electricity undertaking in Lagos has again been raised, and I should like to place before Honourable Members a few figures. The new Power Station at Ijora was first put into partial operation in November, 1923. The number of connections to new consumers was 123 in 1923, 180 in 1924, and 310 in 1925. The number of units generated increased from one and a half millions in 1924 to two millions in 1925. The expenditure, exclusive of capital and depreciation charges, was £19,000 in 1924 and £22,000 in 1925; and revenue was about £25,000 in 1924 and about £30,000 in 1925, an increase of about £5,000 against an increased expenditure of £3,000. The amount of coal used was reduced from 6.1 lbs. per unit in 1924 to 5.6 lb. per unit in 1925. As a comparison I might read an extract from a recent Electricity Review in which it was stated that in stations with outputs between one to two million kilowatt hours—which may be taken as corresponding to the Ijora Station—the fuel consumption ranged from 3.80 lb. to 7.96 lb. per kilowatt hour or an average of 5.88 lb. As Udi coal has a calorific value of about 75 per cent of Scotch coal, the consumption at Ijora cannot be considered unsatisfactory. With regard to the question of the price charged in Lagos, the standard rate for lighting is 1s. 3d. per unit subject to a rebate to large consumers. The non-metered flat rate for small consumers is 1s. 6d. per 40 Watt lamp per month; the power rate for installations below 20 kilowatt is 4d. per unit and for large installations varies with the maximum demand and the number of units consumed. The cost per unit to our two largest power users works out at 2.2d. and 1.707d. which under local conditions must be considered very low. In my last Annual Report, I quoted an extract from a Report of the Electricity Commissioners for the year 1923-24 which stated that in certain areas lighting at 1s. per unit is heartily welcomed and that twice that price would not be prohibitive. The Honourable the Commercial Member for Lagos stated or suggested that the rates in Lagos were unique and excessive, and in no other place in Africa was a higher rate charged. In the Annual tables of the electricity undertakings for the year 1924, the last issue I have been able to obtain, I find fifteen undertakings in various parts of the world with rates for lighting ranging from 1s. 3d. to 2s.; the rate for the only town in West Africa quoted being 2s. The rates for power varied from one at 3½d. per unit, then 5d. to 1s. with an average of 6.8d. In view of the heavy cost of the extended distribution system, the inferior value and higher cost of coal and the necessarily heavy staff charges, I do not consider that the rates charged in Lagos can be regarded as excessive, and I must warn those Honourable Members who are interested in electric lighting schemes elsewhere in Nigeria that, unless conditions are exceptionally favourable, it is most improbable that any lower rates can be charged.

The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces:—

Your Excellency and Honourable Members: There are a few remarks which I wish to make on the subject of the Education Bill which will come up for consideration at the next Session of the Legislative Council.

Yesterday I understood the Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar to state that although it had been indicated to him in various quarters that his opposition to the Bill was not in the interests of Native Education, he considered that more time for reflection was advisable. Had the Honourable Member originally opposed the Bill on those grounds, I should have no comment to offer, but I certainly understood the Honourable Member to oppose

the second reading of this Bill *solely* in the interests of missions, particularly those of the Calabar Provinces. I can give Honourable Members the assurance that responsible representatives of missions, both out here and in England, have been most closely consulted. In actual fact some of the principal provisions embodied in the Bill are due to suggestions made by the representatives of missions themselves.

The Honourable Member based his opposition on a telegram from the senior representative of the United Free Church Mission to the effect that he had not been consulted when the present Bill was drafted. Had a similar question been put to the Bishop of Lagos, he would have given a similar reply. As far as I could understand the Honourable Member, he did not ask the United Free Church Mission whether his Mission was opposed to the Bill or desired its enactment to be postponed.

I venture to suggest to the Honourable Member that if he had couched his telegram in different terms—whether they opposed the Bill or desired its postponement—he might have received a different reply. When I discussed the main provisions of the Bill with them in Calabar they did not inform me that they had any objection; on the contrary they appeared most anxious to cooperate, and offered to set free one of their number, a distinguished scholar with long experience of educational work, to serve on the proposed Board. So that there should be no doubt about the attitude of the Missions as a whole, I will read a paragraph of a letter which I received from the Bishop of Lagos on the 18th. He writes: “I am sorry your Ordinance did not go through, but I hope it will not hang things up long. I do not know what authority Mr. Graham Paul had to speak in the name of the Missions. He certainly had not taken any steps to find out the views of the C.M.S. on this side”.

From enquiries which I subsequently made neither the Bishop of Lagos, nor the head of the Wesleyan Mission, both of whom live within a few hundred yards of this Council Hall appear to have been consulted as to their views by the Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar or by any Honourable Member of this Council, with the exception of the Official Members. I venture to suggest that a novel factor is being introduced into the deliberations of this Assembly if Honourable Members who come to this Council as the recognised representatives of certain interests, speak authoritatively and express views about other interests without the knowledge or permission of those concerned. It certainly seems to me that this occurred on the present occasion.

The Hon. the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

Your Excellency: may I be permitted to rise to a point of order for the enlightenment of Honourable Members. Is it suggested by the Honourable the Director of Education that Honourable Members of this Council must speak in this Council only on behalf of the interests of the people they represent and not on matters of general interest?

His Excellency:—

I do not think that that was what the Honourable Member said. He said there was not sufficient consultation before criticism was offered.

The Hon. the Director of Education, Southern Provinces:—

I trust that Honourable Members will banish any last lingering suspicion that the Education Bill was drafted, and the Sessional Paper on Education was written, to mask an attack on the interests of Missionary Societies who are responsible for more than 90% of the schools in the Southern Provinces.

The Honourable the Second Lagos Member referred to compulsory education as desirable. The late Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford, pointed out on a previous occasion the prohibitive cost of such a measure. At a rough estimate there are, I suppose, over 2,000,000 children of “school age” in the Southern Provinces. The Honourable Member made no suggestion as to how the Government is to find the funds to build, equip and staff the 80,000 schools which would be presumably needed to attain his object, or even to pay for the patrols in the backwoods of Ogoja and several other provinces which I suggest such a compulsory measure would necessitate.

The Honourable the First Lagos Member proposed that consideration of the Education Bill should be postponed to give the Honourable the elected Members an opportunity of considering

this measure and consulting their constituents. I fully appreciate his point of view. From remarks made by the Honourable Member I am inclined to think that he regards this measure as having some ulterior motive. I trust that he will not continue to consider it in the spirit of *Timco danaos et dona ferentes*. From remarks made by the Honourable Member I appear to be regarded as the author of or responsible for a memorandum on the place of the vernacular in Native Education. I am not in the least responsible for it. I had not seen it when the Bill was drafted. In fact the first time that I saw it was when I reached Calabar. (Several Honourable Members:—We have not seen it.) The Honourable the Member who represents the African Traders on the Niger referred to this memorandum and said that he hoped the Government would not continue "this policy". Now this memorandum was issued by an Advisory Committee of which some members had probably a better knowledge of education in India than they have of education in Africa. The opening paragraph is as follows:—

"The Advisory Committee circulate the following memorandum and invite those who have knowledge of local conditions to favour them with observations on the educational recommendations which are provisionally made in it". This memorandum has presumably been sent to every part of Tropical Africa under British Administration. Its sole object is to elicit the views of those who have had experience of educational work in Africa and are competent to advise. It has no connection whatsoever with the Bill, and does not in any way dictate the educational policy of this country. I trust therefore that Honourable Members will realise that the Bill has nothing to do with this paper which I hold in my hand. I can assure the Honourable the First Lagos Member that as far as I am concerned I had not visualised any policy for forbidding instruction in English in our primary schools. The particular point at which a child can, with the best advantage to himself, be taught in English is a matter for experts to discuss and I do not claim to be an expert. I wish the Honourable Member also clearly to understand that I do not regard one curriculum for all the primary schools of this country as desirable. A curriculum suited for Lagos may be most unsuitable in Ogoja. Conditions of life, surroundings, and the occupations of the inhabitants all have to be considered. It is for the purpose of obtaining the advice of those who are best fitted from their experience of education in this country to give opinions on the important subject of curricula and the general educational policy that I am anxious to see the Board constituted at an early date. I now turn to the subject of the registration of Teachers. I can assure Honourable Members that it is not the intention of Government to forbid the continued employment in schools of those already employed as Teachers who are without certificates. Those of you who have studied the Gold Coast legislation will know that there it is proposed to introduce a system of "provisional registration" for men already engaged in the Teaching profession. It is I think a sound scheme which will avoid any injustice, and it is my intention to invite the Board, if and when that Board is constituted, to consider it.

The Honourable the Member for the Colony Division made a few criticisms in a recent Leading Article. He suggested that schools could be closed under the Ordinance merely on the representation of the Director of Education. That is not the case. The Director of Education must be supported by a majority of the Board when he makes such a recommendation. I can assure him that it is no part of the Government policy to desire to suppress "private schools" which are efficiently conducted. Far from it, I pointed out in Committee on Wednesday that the proposed *Training Institutions* were intended to provide facilities for proprietors and managers whether of *Mission or of Private* schools to train their teachers. They are in fact a very important part of the proposed policy. The Honourable Member drew attention to the importance of Agricultural training in our rural schools. I entirely agree with him and can assure him that this important subject has already been the subject of discussion by the Director of Agriculture and myself. My one regret at the postponement of this legislation is that we shall lose the services, on the Board, of the Director of Agriculture who is sailing for England on April 23rd, and I had hoped to have had his services for ten or fourteen days before he went home. There is one point on which I disagree with the Honourable the Member for the Colony Division and that is the necessity of the Commercial Member for Lagos being a member of the Board. I am doubtful whether any Commercial Member could find time for the lengthy discussions which must

take place. Provision has been made for extraordinary members, with a view to getting expert advice on technical subjects. The lack of clerks, well trained in bookkeeping, is a matter which was brought up in Committee by the Honourable the Shipping Member. When that subject comes up for discussion, as it assuredly will, it will be possible to appoint as an Extraordinary Member the Commercial Member for Lagos or some other representative of our big commercial interests who will give us the benefit of his advice.

As regards School Committees, it is, I think, difficult to lay down any rule as to the number of members. Honourable Members can rest assured that the principal object of these committees will be to obtain the views of those engaged in educational work both European and African, who in some cases may have no representation on the Board. It is intended that these committees should play an important part in the development of our future policy.

It will, I think, be unfortunate if the progress of this great country, with its vast possibilities, is held back because insufficient attention is given to the training of the rising generation. I can assure Honourable Members that the Government of this country desires to obtain in dealing with this important subject the whole-hearted co-operation not only of the Missions, who have established over 90% of the schools in this country, but also of the educated men of this country who take an active part or are interested in education.

Very similar legislation on the Gold Coast has received the enthusiastic support not only of the Missions but also of the leading Africans, and I am still hopeful that Nigeria will not lag behind the Gold Coast and that Honourable Members of this Council will, in two months time, give full support to the Legislation which has been proposed. In conclusion I trust that if during the coming financial year the Members of this Council are invited to vote special expenditure to enable the Government to commence building Training Institutions or for other purposes connected with education in the Southern Provinces, the Government can rely on their unqualified support.

The Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

May I be permitted to make one practical suggestion? If the facts that have been put before us to-day had been before us on the second reading there might have been a different view taken of this Bill. One important matter is that we shall lose the services of the Director of Agriculture. Is there anything to prevent the Director of Education circularising the interests he has in mind and asking them if they will form a Committee to consider this Bill before it comes up for second reading in two months time and to give this Council the benefit of their deliberations by way of a report or otherwise?

The Honourable the Director of Education:—

I do not quite follow the suggestion.

The Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar:—

My suggestion is that there is nothing to prevent the formation of a Committee, with no power to legislate, but having all the powers to-day of the proposed Board of Education.

The Committee could consider the proposals made by the Bill and draw up a report and when eventually the Board of Education comes to be formed the Committee might itself constitute the Board. It would simply be automatic and would obviate delay and the benefit of the services of the Director of Agriculture could be had before he goes home.

The Honourable the Director of Education:—

The Honourable Member is in effect suggesting that a provisional Board should be established now in order to save a loss of time? I think that it is a proposal that might be considered as feasible. We will consider it.

The Honourable the Secretary, Southern Provinces:—

Your Excellency, the Honourable the Commercial Member for Lagos has expressed dissatisfaction with the number of water police patrolling the Lagoon. This is a matter that has been raised before, and I think the Chamber of Commerce knows that any facts they bring to the notice of Government will receive earnest consideration.

This question was last raised in October, and on that occasion the Inspector-General of Police called for a report from the Commissioner of Police. A report was made and it described the activities of the Harbour Patrol generally. It further stated that only two cases of theft had been reported to the Police in the previous six months and that in one case the culprits had been brought to justice. The report went on to describe the inadequate means taken by some shipping firms for the protection of their goods. Goods were left lying about in lighters merely covered with tarpaulins secured by bars held in place by ordinary wooden wedges. Mr. Duncan read that report and came to the conclusion that there was no case at the time for augmenting the number of water police. He however called for another report in six month's time. Mr. Duncan returns from leave next month and a report is due about the same time and he will consider the matter again. Mr. Duncan has had very great experience, he came from Malta to this Colony, previously he had been at Demarara, and I think that it will be admitted that he is very well qualified to deal with matters of this kind. In the meantime, however, I suggest that the shipping firms, whose notice has been called to the matter, would be wise to take steps to protect their produce, such as covering it, not only with tarpaulins, but providing proper locking bars and padlocks for the hatches of their lighters and not merely wooden wedges. I need hardly say also that it should be the duty of every person and firm concerned to report every case of robbery to the Police. The police cannot do much if they are left in the dark. What the police patrol was doing up Five Cowrie Creek I do not quite know, but I might say for the information of the Honourable Member that there is not a house in that neighbourhood that has not been burgled at some time or another from the Waterside. As a matter of fact there were four burglaries there last week, so perhaps it is a good thing for the police to show "the flag" up there sometimes. The Honourable the Member for the Colony Division would like them to patrol a good deal further, even as far as up Badagri Creek. If the Honourable the Commercial Member for Lagos had been rusticated up the Badagri Creek instead of at Five Cowrie Creek and had met the patrol there I am convinced that he would have had a good deal more to say. If robberies are reported everything will be done to trace the culprits and I am sure Mr. Duncan, when he gets back here, will take notice of what the Honourable Member has said and he will consider it in connection with the further report which he has called for.

The Hon. the Director of Marine:—

As regards the coal transport question, I have little to add to what I said yesterday in Committee. The only argument the Honourable Member for Shipping can adduce is to try and cast doubt upon my figures. That I maintain is futile. I am sorry the Honourable Member cannot appreciate what the result is when nearly double the cargo is carried on practically the same working costs. This is the explanation in this case of why our rates have come down from 9s. 5d. last year to 6s. 9d. this year. The principal Shipping Companies on this coast are in a ring as is well known, and the only real competition they have ever had has been from the Government in this coal transport. Had the Government not got their own colliers in the first instance I tremble to think what freights we should have had to pay on our coal for the last seven years. It must be remembered also that Government is only carrying its own coal, it is not plying for open hire in this respect and I maintain it has a right to carry such coal. I hope Honourable Members will remember that the cost of coal affects the cost of electric light, about which questions have been asked, and if the price of coal can be brought down, the price of electric light may also no doubt be brought down. The same applies to all other Government Departments using coal, as has been previously instanced in the case of the Railway.

The Honourable Member said that instead of saving a few paltry thousands on coal contracts the Marine Department might devote more of their energies to improving the amenities for shipping in Lagos Harbour, inferring that satisfactory progress in the development of the harbour had not been affected.

The Honourable Member was not here ten years ago, in 1916, when the mail boats and other large vessels still had to discharge into branch boats at Forcados. The bar had previously been opened but had closed up again. However, in 1916, it was opened with a draught of 19 feet 6 inches. It was raised to





20 feet the following year, to 21 the next year, and then reduced again to 20 feet; it remained at this till 1922 when it was raised to 21 feet again; since then it has been steadily increased at the rate of a foot a year to 24 feet now, and it is hoped to reach 25 feet before the end of this year.

I submit that this record is a very creditable one, and that the Honourable Member's inference is not justified. I do not take personal credit for the improvement of the last few years, they are the results of the spade work done previously which have come to fruition during my regime as Director. But I do maintain that the Marine Department has done very good work for shipping, particularly during the years of the war when half the European officers were away on active service. During those years I was fortunate enough to be away but the Marine Department was put to very severe straits to carry on and those officers who stayed here deserve the highest credit.

The opening of the Port for night work that the Honourable Member for Shipping is pressing for is a thing that is bound to come in due course, but it cannot be rushed. The Honourable Member, although he has had so many years' experience in a shipping office, is not a sailor. He knows little or nothing about the difficulties and dangers of this entrance. I am a sailor and I do know, and I should like to have the opinions of the Masters of the vessels that come here who also know, before I could recommend any definite scheme to Government for bringing ships in and out at night. There is another point. A few years ago there was an International Conference at which all the leading harbour experts in the world were present. That conference advised that there should always be three feet under a ship's bottom in harbour. Now what is the case out here. The history of shipping on this coast will show that the vessels entering the rivers of this country such as Forcados, Brass, Akassa, Bonny and Opobo have always been in the habit of crossing with a few inches only to spare and bumping over. All credit is due to the skilful and daring sailors who have done and are still doing this. Following on this practice we have worked here with a margin of inches only, and though vessels do not bump over the bar they move about this harbour with the very smallest margin of depth. Now if the port were lighted at once and vessels allowed to enter or leave at night does the Honourable Member think the same draught would be permitted? Not for a moment. To ensure safety it would certainly have to be reduced about three feet. I ask therefore what benefit would it be to a vessel loaded down to the maximum draught to have the port open for night work? She would have to wait for daylight in any case.

Again there is the financial side. There will be considerable capital and recurrent expenditure entailed in working a night service and there would not be much object in incurring this expense unless we are assured that full use will be made of it. Accordingly I do not think there would be any advantage in opening the port for night work just yet.

In addition to the opening of this Harbour, since 1923 the buoyage of the coast and the river entrances has been taken over and adequately maintained, which I regret to say it never was previously when such work was contracted for. Three automatic light buoys have been laid off the three principal river entrances which have burnt most successfully and have been of enormous help to mariners.

The Lagos and Akassa lights have both been modernised, and many coastal beacons have been erected as aids to navigation.

Surveys or re-surveys of all river bars have been carried out whenever any change or suspected change has been reported. No request from Shipmasters or the Shipping Companies has not been given prompt attention in this respect.

I might also mention that in spite of our increased activities our recurrent expenditure has been actually reduced year by year since 1921 and is now less than in that year.

The Honourable Member stated yesterday that this Department cost the country roughly a thousand pounds a day. He takes no account of what it earns apparently. The recurrent expenditure last year was approximately £336,000 if it is true, but the Revenue brought to account under Marine Heads was £306,000, so that the Department only actually cost some £30,000 for the year.

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As regards the small matter of the rivet making machine mentioned by the Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar. I find that there are several kinds of these machines, that Marine and Railway requirements are not indetical, and it is most improbable that one machine could serve both Departments.

The Honourable the Member for the Niger African Traders has mentioned the question of the withdrawal of the Government transport on the Niger. The support given by the African traders is not sufficient to warrant Government going to the expense of renewing its fleet on the Niger in order to continue the service. The vessels are getting old and require replacing and considerable outlay would be necessary. During last year, of the cargo carried by Government, over eighty per cent was for two of the large trading concerns on the river, and less than two per cent was for African traders.

There is just one other point I might mention. The Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar spoke of the difficulty the Unofficial Members had in checking Departmental Estimates. All I can say is that if the Honourable the Unofficial Members realised the difficulty we have in getting the Chief Secretary to allow us to insert any new items into Estimates, and the very thorough and careful way in which our Estimates are combed through in the Secretariat, they would realise how little further checking is really necessary.

The Honourable the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

I wish to explain to the Director of Marine—

His Excellency:—

The Honourable Member cannot make a second speech. If he wishes to make any correction he may do so.

The Honourable the Member Representing the Niger African Traders:—

I only wanted to explain that the river transport on the Niger is not a regular one and that is the reason why it has not been so well patronised by the African traders.

The Honourable the Treasurer:—

I desire Sir, to make a few remarks on the subject of loans and the public debt. The Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar pointed out yesterday that the public debt of this Colony was only twenty million pounds sterling, that the annual revenue was about eight millions and that such a revenue must justify or would stand a much larger public debt than the moderate sum of twenty million pounds. I am not quite certain of the correct ratio between annual income and public debt. But there are two other standards of comparison which are more or less familiar. One is the relationship of the public debt to the number of inhabitants. I have a list before me showing the number of inhabitants in various colonies, and the amount per head of the public debt. I quote cases:—

	Public Debt.	Population.	Public Debt per head.		
	£		£	s.	d.
Strait's Settlements ...	18,657,000	884,000	21	2	0
Trinidad and Tobago	3,425,000	363,000	9	8	0
British Guiana ...	2,582,000	297,000	8	14	0
The Gold Coast ...	11,887,000	2,110,000	5	12	0
Jamaica ...	4,582,000	858,000	5	7	0
Mauritius ...	1,266,000	377,000	3	7	0
Ceylon ...	12,966,000	4,504,000	2	17	0
Sierra Leone ...	1,730,000	1,456,000	1	4	0

In Nigeria it is £1 1s. per head. (Honourable Members: Hear, Hear). Now that is very satisfactory. If that were the only standard of comparison, we might say, go ahead and borrow some more money quickly and spend it. But that is not the only standard of comparison; it must be considered in relation to another comparison. I refer to the exports of the country per head of

population. The larger the exports per head the greater is the justification for borrowing money. The following figures will be of interest to Honourable Members.

	Exports.	Population.	Exports per head.		
			£	s.	d.
Straits Settlements ...	89,991,000	884,000	101	16	0
Trinidad and Tobago ...	4,894,000	363,000	13	9	0
British Guiana ...	3,240,000	297,000	10	18	0
The Gold Coast ...	9,915,000	2,110,000	4	14	0
Jamaica ...	3,116,000	858,000	3	13	0
Mauritius ...	3,186,000	377,000	9	5	0
Ceylon ...	25,701,000	4,501,000	5	14	0
Sierra Leone ...	1,711,000	1,456,000	1	3	0
Nigeria ...	15,038,000	18,000,000	0	16	0

Nigeria is far and away the poorest of the lot so that the impression left by looking at the amount of our public debt per head of population is offset by looking at the exports of the country per head of the population. Before we can increase our public debt we must increase our exports. Everybody will agree with that.

The Honourable Member further indicated that we were spending too much of our surplus balances on capital works which ought to be financed from loans. It is an unwritten rule that loan money should be used for capital works which are likely to be of a remunerative character. There are other works which are not productive of revenue such as roads, bridges, houses, (although there is a reservation about houses), and other works of the sort. I think that these facts will justify our attitude and practice in spending a large proportion (but not too large) of our surplus revenue on capital works. (Applause).

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor Southern Provinces:—

There are a few points, Sir, of purely political importance that Honourable Members have touched upon and to which I should reply. The Honourable Member for the Egba Division wanted to know whether the police barracks at Abeokuta were for the Native Administration police or the police of the Colony. They are here in the estimates and they are for the Colony police. I think the Honourable Member thought that the amount to be spent, £2,650, was rather excessive. I cannot say for certain what the number of the detachment is, but I think about twenty-five and they, being members of the Colony Police with a certain status to keep, and having with them their wives and families, must be accommodated reasonably well. There is also the question of Abeokuta as the capital of Egbaland and Abeokuta cannot very well be let down in the matter of decent buildings. I think that about £100 per family is not, in the circumstances, excessive. The present police barracks are a disgrace to Abeokuta.

The Member for Calabar, with a display of that forensic ability for which he is famed, referred to the effervescence that occurred among certain ladies in Calabar last year. He referred in words of scarcely veiled contempt to the absence of the Resident and two of his political officers who were sick and out of action, but he said nothing at all about the highest native authority in Calabar, a second class chief, who took no steps whatever to calm the agitated women and prevent what destruction of property there was—it was very little; and so I think that His Excellency took a very mild course in merely administering a severe censure to the Obong.

A somewhat specious argument was raised concerning land in Port Harcourt. The Member for Calabar stated that certain lands had been acquired by the Government and that the Government had at first offered a lump sum of £2,000 and then subsequently withdrawn it and offered £500 per annum. He also complained that Government was now deriving an annual profit of £3,000 to £4,000 for these lands. Government is receiving £3,000 to £4,000 in rent for the land, but it is not the same thing to say that they are occupying the same land at a profit. Reclamation and deforestation work has been carried out and by that work Port Harcourt has been made what it is to-day—a Harbour and a Town. It is not the same land taken over by Government for an original consideration of £2,000 offered, but it is now land which has a greatly

enhanced value, due to the expenditure on it of some million pounds. Personally I think the land owners have been ill-advised in not accepting Government's most generous offer, which offer is still open.

The Commercial Member for Calabar referred to the transfer of the Headquarters of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Southern Provinces away from Lagos. I can assure him that the transfer is much nearer realisation than when the question was last mooted and I can promise him that I will do all I can to remove that sense of remoteness of the Lieutenant-Governor which does exist in the Provinces. It is largely a question of geography which would be simplified, if the Honourable Member for Shipping would only make Calabar as near Lagos as Ibadan is to-day.

The Hon. the Attorney-General:--

Your Excellency, I think there was only one suggestion made with regard to the Legal Department and that was a proposal made by the Honourable the First Lagos Member. I am not quite sure what the suggestion really was, but I rather gathered that he suggested that a sufficient number of posts should be created in the Legal Department to alleviate unemployment amongst the local Bar in Lagos. I am not quite sure whether he meant that proposal to be taken seriously, but if he did he cannot have been taking seriously his responsibilities as one of the custodians of the public purse, and I am certain that, if any such appointments were created, even the Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar would feel compelled to criticise them, and that he would wield an axe with some confidence. As regards the question of appointment to the present posts in the Legal Department, I can only inform the Honourable Member, as has been stated before, that African Members of the Lagos Bar, who become applicants for these posts, receive equal consideration with all other candidates. Appointments rest with the Secretary of State and there is considerable competition for them, since the appointments here are by no means the lowest rung of the ladder of legal appointments in the Crown Colonies. African candidates receive consideration with others on their merits.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:--

Sir, I am quite sure I am expressing your views when I say that we are very grateful to the Unofficial Members for the very real help that they have given us on the estimates and in this Council. We are always grateful for their advice and their views, and without their knowledge and help we should be very much in the dark.

It is usual for the Chief Secretary, on the conclusion of a debate, to summarise all the points that have been made and to reply to them in detail. It is unnecessary for me to go into very great detail on this occasion as my official colleagues have risen to the occasion better than they did last year. (Honourable Members: Hear! Hear!) There are, however, a few points upon which I must touch— one of them in particular—I refer to the medical side of the discussion. That has been raised by almost every speaker and quite rightly. Nothing has given us greater concern in the north than to hear of the number of people dying from relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis, the latter of which I have been informed has been in this country since 1900. What the cause is no one knows. Relapsing fever has caused many deaths but its cure, or the prevention of it should say, is a comparatively simple matter. If you could only be sure that the natives, men, women and children, would wash themselves and their clothes frequently there would soon be a large reduction in the number of deaths. It would not matter, however, if you had a thousand medical officers in the north in an endeavour to cope with this disease if the people disregarded their advice, and therefore the first thing to do is to educate them not only in respect of preventive measures but in all matters bearing on the improvement of sanitary conditions and public health. Something has been said about the shortage of medical officers. We have made every possible effort to get Doctors but they do not want, apparently, to come to this country. They quickly offer themselves for other countries and other colonies and for East Africa. I was so informed by a high authority. On my asking the reason I was told "because of the reputation of the country"— which to my mind is very largely false. We cannot cry "stinking fish" and then wonder why people will not come here.

The Honourable the Commercial Member for Calabar raised a question about loans. I have nothing to add to what the Treasurer said on that point except this. The point was that we should raise loans and that they should be applied to meet our capital expenditure, and release the surplus of revenue over expenditure for other things such as maintenance. The result would be that you would be adding another charge to your expenditure in the shape of interest and at the same time heaping up your surplus balances. We certainly want to maintain our surplus balances but to adopt the Honourable Member's suggestion we should lay ourselves open to accusations unduly of heavy taxation.

As regards the estimates it is no doubt difficult for unofficial Members to study them efficiently for the purpose of criticising them but you really must trust those of us who have been at this game for nearly thirty years not to accept things blindly.

Several remarks were made about the Provincial Courts. I do not propose to say anything about that matter as the whole question has been referred to the Secretary of State and settled. I should just like, however, to say something in reply to what the Member for the Rivers Division said. He said that it was not fitting that Administrative officers should try capital charges. Speaking with nearly thirty years experience of native states I have found that the native reveres the justice of the white man and of the white administration and if a political officer is competent to try a case of ordinary crime he is equally competent to try a charge of murder. I think that when a man is charged with a capital offence the Judge takes extra pains where there is no lawyer for the defence, and he becomes, really, counsel for the defence.

Then some reference was made to the disturbance made by market women at Calabar. My Honourable friend on my right has referred to that in answer to a question. I went down there especially to look into the matter and it fell to my lot to administer a severe rebuke to the Obong in public for keeping out of the way when the disturbance was taking place. I observed that when reference was made to the Resident being away from the vicinity at the time, nothing was said about the Obong keeping well out of the way when he ought to have been present and exercised his influence in preventing the disturbance.

I think I have covered all the points made but if there are any suggestions of unofficial members to which I have not referred, when these debates are printed we shall look through them and give further attention to them if we possibly can. (Honourable Members. Hear! Hear!)

His Excellency:—

The motion is that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

The motion that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria for the year ending the thirty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven," as amended by the Select Committee, be read a third time and passed, was then put and agreed to.

The Hon. the Treasurer:—

Sir, I rise to move that a sum of £150,000 be voted wherewith to start a Railway Renewals Fund. £300,000 has been put down as the annual contribution. This fund should have been started many years ago and it is felt that, as the Railway has had a very prosperous year, it should be started now and I therefore beg to move that a sum of £150,000 be voted for the purpose.

The Hon. the General Manager of the Railway:—

Sir, in seconding this motion my only regret is that the amount is not double. The particulars of this Fund and its nature, and the reasons for its existence, are given very fully in Colonel Hammond's Report. Every one of the physical properties of the Railway, and there are very many indeed, are deteriorating. In former years we have managed to keep the Railway in a state of efficiency by the provision of funds either from surplus balances or from capital works. We realised that this was wrong in principle and the question of the creation of a Renewals Fund has been put forward many times. A Renewals Fund exists in every Railway in the world. Most of the Railway properties depreciate, but it is rather extraordinary that none appreciate, except earthworks (the banks), and they get better every year

and it would be quite impossible to replace them to-day for their original cost. In making this provision it is proposed in the publication of the annual statement to make no allowance for sinking fund in addition. I may say, Sir, that in the past some three million pounds has been found from surplus balances and charged to capital costs. It is proposed to write down the capital of the Railway by one million pounds and this figure will be shown in the annual report for next year. I can assure Honourable Members that if this provision is granted the question of the expenditure items will be carefully considered in each case. Actually this money will be put away and will bear interest. We may not require to touch any of it for the next four or five years except in the case of sleepers becoming due for renewal. The same applies as regards locomotives and rolling stock but against this provision of £300,000 we shall be able to order additional locomotives to replace those which are worn out. I therefore beg to second the motion.

The Hon. the First Lagos Member:—

Your Excellency, is this motion regular? I understand that we are now dealing with the Appropriation Bill.

His Excellency:—

That has been passed.

The Hon. the First Lagos Member:—

Honourable Members have had no notice of this.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

No notice has been given of this because it was brought up at the Finance Committee last Tuesday. I think that a motion for the spending of money is quite in order.

His Excellency:—

Does any other Honourable Member wish to address the Council?

*The motion was carried.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government:—

I beg to move, Sir, that this Council do now adjourn *sine die*.

His Excellency:—

Before the Council adjourns I should like to say how struck I was with the very helpful and constructive criticisms offered by Honourable Members of Council during the Session. One Honourable Member suggested in the course of his speech that it would be a good thing to have an opposition in this Council composed of the Unofficial Members. The Honourable Member of course knows that there can be no such thing. We have got to help one another to govern this country and there should be the closest co-operation between official and unofficial Members. There was one other remark which was made by an Honourable Member and I gathered that he thought that Government has not made as great an effort as it might to discuss questions with Unofficial Members. If that is so I am very sorry. I want Honourable Members to understand that I wish to make myself personally accessible to them at all times and I can assure them that I shall always be ready to hear and discuss with them any proposals that they may make. (Hear, Hear). I now declare the Council adjourned *sine die*.

The Council adjourned accordingly at 12.15 p.m.



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME II

*Session 1957-58*

Comprising period from  
15th—27th March, 1957

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Friday, 15th March, 1957

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL

(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY)

(House in Committee)

HEAD 29—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND  
AVIATION

*Question proposed, That the sum of £26,710 for Head 29—Ministry of Communications and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr J. I. Izah** (Aboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is regrettable that neither the Minister of Communications and Aviation nor his Parliamentary Secretary and probably his Permanent Secretary are on the official Bench. I am happy, however, to have the assurance that whatever I have to say will be communicated to the Minister. I was moved to file this amendment to leave out item (16), sub-head 1, because of the frustration and contempt which my constituency, Aboh Division, received from this Ministry. Two years ago I asked a question in this House requesting the Minister to state when a telephone line will be extended from Kwale to Ashaka and here, in this House, I was given the reply that in six months' time my need would be granted: that was two years ago. I wonder, Mr Chairman, whether we are ever given assurances which are meant to be accepted as truths in this House.

While we were here, Mr Chairman, a question was asked on which this Ministry not only failed to give the right answer but stated that my Constituency has two post offices, which was not so.

**The Chairman**: Order, order. I do not know if the hon. Member realises that he is moving an Amendment under Entertainment Allowance? He has not said a word about it yet.

**Mr Izah**: Mr Chairman, I realise I am to speak to that Amendment but I feel too, Sir, that this is the appropriate time to tell the Ministry of Communications and Aviation of this failure....

**The Chairman**: No, that is just what is not appropriate. The hon. Member may either confine his remarks now to Entertainment Allowance or speak to the appropriate Head when the time comes, whichever he chooses.

**Mr Izah**: However, since the Minister is not here, nor is his Parliamentary Secretary, I would be doing him an injustice if I moved this Amendment to chop up his Entertainment Allowance but, with the assurance that he will be told, Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not move.

*Question again proposed, That £26,710 for Head 29—Ministry of Communications and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Chief V. Duro Phillips** (Ijebu West): Mr Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Mr Izah started off with his speech this morning I heard some Members murmuring "Collective responsibility" in respect of the absence of the Minister of Communications and I also heard my good and learned Friend, the hon. Minister of Research and Information, murmuring "The Government is here". We know very well that the Government is here but the particular Minister responsible for the important subject which we are discussing, and his Parliamentary Secretary, are not here.

I think, Sir, it is the greatest act of discourtesy to this hon. House for both the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary to absent themselves on this important occasion. I am not unmindful, Sir, of the fact that the Eastern Regional Elections are on but nobody could be more useful in the circumstances in the Eastern Region than the General Secretary of the Party himself, who is here.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I stopped him from going.

**Chief Duro Phillips**: You stopped him from going! Thank you. The hon. Minister has no stake in the Elections; he is not concerned. (*An hon. Member: He is a Regionalist*). Regionalist! Yes, indeed. And we cannot but look round and feel a little bit relieved by seeing the Director of Posts and Telegraphs Department sitting in the corner there. But, be that as it may, our views in this House are properly communicated to Ministers, or their Parliamentary Secretaries, and their absence we deplore very much; we think that the other Members of the Cabinet should take note that, in future, if they are absent, their Parliamentary Secretaries

be left to hold the fort for them. (*An Member: Dereliction of duty! Govern- by default!*)

only want to make a brief comment on of the activities of the Posts and Tele- s Department. A few days ago I said I was satisfied that this Department was y very great strides towards improving services rendered to the public. But, Sir, h that this Department would concern with improving the lot of the Nigerians g therein.

o years ago I brought to the notice of House the fact that there is a Nigerian al in this Department who asked for an d of scholarship to go for further studies eas; he was not granted that award; as not promised anything; so he took it himself to finance his overseas studies went to the United Kingdom and stayed for three years; he came back fully ed on his own. At the time when he his country he was on First Class Grade— as known as First Class Postal Clerk and graphist; in spite of the fact that he came fully qualified for elevation to the Senior ce, and despite his work and conduct described as fully satisfactory, up to the nt moment of speaking he has not been dered fit and proper for promotion.

at year I raised the matter again and I d only wish, Sir, that the Minister makes inquiry into the circumstances which nt this particular Nigerian officer, who, ntally, is still serving on the First Class , from being elevated.

we are satisfied that Nigerianisation is place in the Posts and Telegraphs tment but the Department should con- ot only the very few Nigerians awarded ships to study overseas but should nsider those who have not had such an unity and those who have proved their locally.

the Department of late decided to relieve barrassing congestion in the Second Grade, both in the Operating and one Sections, by promoting *en masse* people who had been vegetating in this Class Grade for years on end—people d put in 25, 26, up to 30 years as such. I say, Sir, that this kind of stereotyped n is not desirable. What people want, o be given due consideration for their

merit. When a man has served 30 years as a Second Class Telephone Operator, or a Second Class Postal Clerk and Telegraphist, and, all of a sudden, the Department decides to elevate him to the very next rank of First Class Grade, what do we expect, Sir, to be the compensation of such people? What joy do we expect such people to have?

I think, Sir, that, in view of the fact that the Department had made up its mind to open avenues for higher grades—such as Chief Supervisors, Senior Supervisors and so on—it should see to it that people who have really served—given a lifetime's service in this Department, for that matter, as I have described (the people having put in 25-30 years' service)—should receive more than mere promotion from Second Class Grade to First Class Grade.

I do wish, Sir, that the Head of this Depart- ment would call, if possible, for the file of every Nigerian who is serving in this Depart- ment and himself determine which of them really merits promotion to the highest status, in the first instance; to the medium status and, perhaps, to the very next status.

Mr Chairman, for the meanwhile, these are my views.

**Mr J. C. Obande** (South West Idoma): Mr Chairman, this Head has been an important one and like all Members who have given their views, I have only two points to make, and that is to refer to my Question No. 124 to the Minister of Communications and Aviation, which appeared on the Order Paper for 6th March. I asked the Minister when the Post Office at Makurdi would be rebuilt, and in addition I asked about Post Offices at Lafia and Oturkpo, which were promised about two years ago.

I am surprised to receive a reply from the Minister to-day that work is expected to com- mence on Makurdi Post Office this year. Provided funds are made available during the years 1958-60 Oturkpo and Lafia will be built then, which means that these people will have to wait for many years.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this answer has no meaning to me, and I really do not know how to pass it to my people who are pressing very hard to share this amenity with their fellow people from the other Provinces.

Secondly, Sir, I have noticed a great many posts which are supposed to be on Contract. It appears that the Minister's intentions are to furnish his proposals with statements that these expatriates are on contract. How long, Sir, does the Minister want us to remain employing expatriates on contract? Would it not be possible to train Nigerians? In the memo- randum it is also proposed to train Nigerians for five years for certain posts. If this is true, how many of them are now in training?

In short, Sir, I would like this Department to be Nigerianised.

I beg to support.

**Mr Z. B. Olokesusi** (Ekiti South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have no objection to the votes on this Ministry of Communications and Aviation, but there is one observation I want to bring to the Notice of the Minister.

I know that the Minister is one of the most troubled Ministers of the Federal Government, (*Hear, hear*) and far and wide all over Nigeria and overseas, and I know that at any time on his tour he has always stayed to see Members of this House to confer with them and also to reason with them what sort of amenities and Postal facilities each and every one Member has desired for his constituency, but I wonder whether the Minister has also conferred with the Staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Depart- ment.

More than once in this House people have complained that the Staff of the Posts and Telegraphs are very often not giving to the public the courtesy they deserve, and also the attention they deserve. It is embarrassing to see that when one goes to the Post Office, even when there is no congestion, that due to the tardiness with which these clerks do their work, very many hours are wasted. Not that the members of the public come into contact with this type more frequently than with the other types, but I would advise the Minister that when he talks he will gather the members of the Staff and talk to them about their morality and also about their courtesy and respect to the public with whom they come into frequent contact. I would expect that civility would reign supreme among the members of the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

It is true that there is much congestion in very many Post Offices, and it is also that the work of the Clerks is very trying. It is also

very true that they come into contact with some very obstinate members of the public, but unfortunately one does sometimes see that, when a courteous, respectful and polite person goes to the Post Office he does not always receive the very best politeness, courtesy, and service he deserves from the staff of the Post Office and Telegraph Department.

I think that is the only aspect where the Minister can help when he is on his tour. When, especially, he comes to a station where there is a big department or staff, one or two meetings with these members of the staff and some talks to them about their behaviour to the public would be in place, and would help to correct this state of affairs.

As I said before, it is with pleasure that I approve that this Vote should be passed, for this Minister is indeed very arduous and very diligent in his work, and I am sure no voice will be raised against the Vote. (*Hear, hear*).

**Chief I. S. Popoola** (Owo North): Mr Chairman, I have no axe to grind with the allocation on this Head, but what I want to say against this Ministry is that the urban areas are more developed than the rural areas.

Before India attained her nationhood, she developed the rural areas as well as the urban areas equally. Akoko Division in Owo North has been neglected. She must be served with telecommunications to connect her with Owo and Kabba Divisions.

British Forces in Burma could have overcome the hostilities in half the time they did if the rural areas had been served with telecommuni- cation services and roads. So that I am to remind the Minister of Communication that services should be installed in those areas.

That is all I have to say, Sir.

**Mr H. M. Adaji** (North Igalala): Mr Chair- man, Sir, this is a very important item. We have noticed sad occurrences whereby the Minister of Communication and Aviation has concentrated his workings in the urban areas. In my constituency, Sir, we lack postal communications, telecommunications, and all sorts of communications. We are aware that with postal services and telecommunications, the economy of the country is developed. With post offices serving at immense interest, you send letters to various consumers of local produce, where you understand there is a

market for them. But in my constituency, Sir, the Postal Agent there only serves the people from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., and this is just once a week, and where we have local messengers to help us, we only get such services twice a week.

We have complained several times to the surveyor, who visits just once or twice in a year, to improve the services of this Postal Agent. Nothing has been done up till now. When I came here last August, I saw the Minister concerned, and he promised that he would do something to improve the postal services in that particular area. Up till now, Mr Chariman, nothing done. This has brought me to the conclusion that there is a section in this House, which pays special attention to special areas, from where some of the Ministers or their Parliamentary Secretaries come. They do not very much care for people who come from the rural areas. I am quite sure that no Government could be formed without the help of Members from rural areas. But then, if our people should put us here in order to put their problems before the Federal Government, and our own Ministers should just overlook our complaints, I think they are doing the worst injustice to people from the rural areas.

You will remember, two years ago, a huge sum of money was stolen from the N.A. Treasury, Idah. This money could have been collected if there had been telecommunication between Idah and Ankpa, through where the so-called Abanidiegwu people had made away with the money.

This complaint was brought to this particular House, that something must be done in order to prevent future recurrence. The Minister concerned overlooked everything; continued developing telecommunications in Lagos, in Ibadan, Kano, Kaduna, Jos, Aba, Port Harcourt, and other places which have already had services, in abundance.

I do not think that people should continue paying taxes, and receive no reward for their money. We do not come to ask the Government to continue paying allowances to Members who come from rural areas only, without trying to serve the people who elected them to this House, to receive august salaries. We are not here for personal interest alone; the interests of the people in our constituencies must be looked into. The Minister has forgotten entirely that people pay taxes, out of which they enjoy amenities, and that they would not

have the money to pay the workers of their telecommunications or post offices in those areas if their areas had not been developed.

Mr Chairman, my people pay taxes, and they must get something in return. When they say that they tour, the Minister of Communications and Aviation has been touring over a week, but we have never noticed his Parliamentary Secretary in my area. If self-government, as we are talking of it in this House, should come as a reality, I do not think the people in my constituency will enjoy anything.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as far as appointments are concerned, I say the inefficiency of the postal services in this country is due to employment of brothers and friends of the Ministers, or their relatives, or some political leaders in the service.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): I hope the hon. Member is not talking seriously here.

**The Chairman**: Order, order. I am bound to say I must draw the hon. Member's attention to the fact that he was making an implication against the Minister, which I feel he ought to be able to sustain, if he really means it.

**Mr Adaji**: Mr Chairman, Sir, if the people were employed and failed to do their duty, as representatives of the people, they are in a special place to correct these people. If such corrections are not forthcoming, I think that they are to blame. The Ministers are responsible for the inefficiency of some of the businesses in the rural areas, and claiming here that Ministers are not responsible, he is telling me to quit the House. The Minister concerned, Sir, I notice in very many cases, where papers cry against some employees of the Posts and Telegraphs. People get a receipt down there, and then when they complain to their Departments, no move is made in order to correct such anomaly, and the Members of the public have no connection, or right to go and see the people in the offices.

I think the Minister concerned should take drastic action on consultation with the Heads of Departments, and get all these things eradicated, and then I think justice will be done to the taxpayers of the country. So that, if appointments should be given at all,

they should be given to those who wish to take pains over business, and not the favourites or the darlings of the Government. Here, Sir, Mr Chairman, if the posts now said to be available under this heading and said to be given on contracts, I think such contracts should be given to Nigerians. We have qualified men who have served in this Department for years, and I think that they would do more to satisfy the taxpayers of this country than an expatriate, who is just accustomed to the way the Posts and Telegraphs in his own area works. Our people understand the workings in our country better than the expatriates from overseas. So such contracts, Sir, should be given to Nigerians.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr S. F. Nwika** (Ogoni): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this part of the Estimates. I would like to congratulate the Minister on his achievement so far, but I would associate myself with the expressions that have been made in this House that the provision of amenities in this respect has been concentrated in the urban areas. There has been what I may call a scramble for amenities for people living in the rural areas. I think that may be rightly so.

Those of us who come from the rural areas are very serious over this matter. We know that our people are suffering. We know that most of us here come from the rural areas. We know that every constituency is a unit of this Federation. We know also that all of us have come here to legislate in the interests of all the people of this country, but at the same time every one of us is a representative of a group of people. Therefore we have come here to speak in their interests.

I have come from a rural area, Mr Chairman; I represent a constituency, the Ogoni Division. One of our greatest needs there to-day is communications. A post office has been built; there are no telecommunication facilities. And therefore, Sir, I am appealing to the Ministry to see to it that communication facilities are provided in the post office that has just been built there. The headquarters of my division is only 27 miles from the telegraph lines. I therefore do not see any reason why it is impossible for telegraph wires to be extended to my division.

In his reply to my question the other week the Parliamentary Secretary said that telegraph

lines will be extended to my division if possible. I do not like the use of the words, "if possible". I think it is incumbent on the Government to see to it that those people who are a unit of this Federation enjoy equal amenities with the other sections of the Federation.

I also want to appeal to the Minister concerned to pay periodic visits to my people. I think one reason why he does not come there is the fact that if he comes there he will not have a telephone to speak to other people, he will not have the facilities for sending telegrams to the headquarters, and so on. So, I think if he provides all these it will be easy for him to come there, he will enjoy all the facilities that he would enjoy in big townships, and the sooner these facilities are provided the better will it be for my people.

I support the Head, and I hope that these amenities will be provided for my people as soon as possible.

**The Minister of Transport** (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to tell the House that I am looking after these Estimates on behalf of my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Communications and Aviation. Sir, it is very important for us to appreciate, Sir, that the point which some of the hon. Members complained about of Members from the Government Bench murmuring about collective responsibility is a very important point, Sir, whenever the question of a Cabinet system of government is talked about.

Sir, a proper Cabinet system of government cannot function without collective responsibility, and I would like the House to know that when the Ministers are not here, when a Minister responsible for a particular subject is not here, other Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries on the Government Bench are always taking down notes for him. And, in fact, Sir, usually after the meeting of the House of Representatives the speeches and other points made by hon. Members are carefully examined by the Minister and then action is taken, Sir, on some of the points raised. And so I want to assure the House that although the Minister of Communications is not in this House to-day there is no doubt that all the points made will be conveyed to him, and there is no doubt that he himself,

Sir, will study the points raised and of course action will be taken on matters on which action could be taken.

Sir, I would like to answer only one point made by an hon. Member, I think my hon. Friend Chief Duro Phillips. He spoke of a Nigerian who went to the United Kingdom and received training but on his return he was not promoted. I am sorry to say that, as far as the Director of Posts and Telegraphs is concerned he has no knowledge of such a gentleman.

**Chief Duro Phillips :** Mr Kasunmu. Mr E. A. Kasunmu.

**The Minister of Transport :** The House will be interested to know also that in 1956-57 the following promotions were made: 94 people, 94 Nigerians I would say, Sir, were promoted to the senior grades. Sir, over 600 from rank and file were also promoted to the supervisory grades. (Applause). There is no doubt about the fact that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs is highly Nigerianised.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** Well, I want to speak on the Ministry and, briefly, I would like to answer the hon. the Minister of Transport. We are building up parliamentary democracy in this country, and we all realise that Cabinet government is impossible without collective responsibility, and Cabinet government is also impossible without individual responsibility. Both must go together, but I do not know what the views of the Members of the Government Bench are. I feel that, for the first time, this hon. House is being treated with contempt by a Minister: not only by the Minister as an individual, but by the Government too, collectively.

The programme for this House was decided, the time table was decided, by the Government. If it was realised that the Minister of Communications might not be available to-day, arrangements could have been made to defer the discussion of his own Head of the Estimates until the time that he would be here. (Cries of "Why? Why?" by several hon. Members). Not only is he not here; his Parliamentary Secretary too, is not here. Now, both of them are paid in order that they may be answerable to this House. If it is only a question of collective responsibility, why are portfolios divided at all? Why did you give them separate portfolios? Why don't you give just only one to all of them together? The Minister has shirked his own

responsibility on this occasion. (Interruptions and cries of "No, no.")

I know all the Alleluiah Boys will join, even though in their own heart of hearts they know that the Ministry has not played ball. The Minister of Transport was very careful in his choice of words: he did not justify the Minister's absence.

He spoke as a diplomat; he knew it was wrong and should have laid down the rules of this House. If a Minister, whom you pay to answer questions, is not here without having permission to be absent at all, his Parliamentary Secretary should be in his place. It is a gratuitous insult to this honourable House and as far as we on the Opposition side—I speak for the Opposition Bench—there may be collective responsibilities, speeches may be made and written down. We know that we all have certain responsibilities. We know too that there are matters within the special knowledge of the Minister who is responsible and the Parliamentary Secretary, which may not be within the knowledge of other Ministers, collective responsibilities, notwithstanding; and as such, we would not waste the time of this House and the other Heads of the Estimates dealing with this, and we assure the House that we would not interfere. Any day that he chooses to be here, if the opportunity presents itself, we may raise such questions and we would wish with all humility and with deference, that this be the last occasion on which the Government would treat this House with such contempt.

If any Minister is going to be away, let it be arranged for his Parliamentary Secretary to be present in the House, the two of them should not be away at one and the same time. What do we pay them for? Suppose we need the services of the Controller of the Posts and Telegraphs—he is absent, nobody sees him, and so the Minister of Communications would be the first person to say that he is absent without permission and the penalty is dismissal. If we cannot dismiss him, I will state that it is immoral for the Minister to be away; it is immoral, for the Parliamentary Secretary to be away.

**Mr Chairman :** You have a funny idea of what is immoral. "Shameful" would be a better word.

**Chief Akintola :** It is disgraceful, it is shameful, I agree with you. (Some hon. Members: Aiding and abetting.)

**The Chairman :** Order, order. There must be less interruption; interruptions like these waste time and we have very little time this morning, we have a lot of Heads. When we spoke of 604, Posts and Telegraphs, last year, certain particulars were taken to challenge the Minister on Posts and Telegraphs and it might happen again this year.

**Chief Akintola :** I am deeply grateful to the Chairman, because I am not going to exhaust all my ammunition; it may be that the Minister would be here when we come to the proper Head of the Estimates but I assure the Chairman and also the House that we shall no longer contribute to the other Heads under this Minister, unless he is here.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** Mr Chairman, Sir I am very grateful that I am allowed to say a few words in contribution to this Debate. Sir, I have always held the view that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. I want to say, Sir, that it is certainly (Interruption) without wasting time, Sir, I must say that I agree in detail and fully with the Minister of Transport for the explanation which he has given to this honourable House, and I think common-sense dictates that, when an explanation of this kind is given, people who consider themselves intelligent or intellectual, should be able to reason with people.

I wish to inform the House, Sir, that if there is anything immoral or disgraceful that has ever been practised in this House by any Minister, it is certainly not the fault of the Minister of Communications, who during the present sitting of this House, went to Warri to perform the ceremony of this House. (Hear, hear).

**The Chairman :** That is past history and is not relevant.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I agree that past history is not necessary but sometimes I feel that it is relevant; but I shall go to the present history again, Sir. I shall say to this House that it is true that when the Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Labour, he was more at Ogbomosho than in his office. There is evidence that he has stayed in his house at Ikoyi and was running away to Ogbomosho and other places.

**Chief Akintola :** I seek your protection, Sir. The Leader of the Opposition is not, I am not,

dealing with all these present Heads of the Estimates.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare :** I want to say, Sir, in conclusion, to assure the Leader of the Opposition and people who may think like him, that the Minister of Communications and Aviation is not an irresponsible Minister and lacking in his duties but that he is a most respectful and responsible citizen of Nigeria.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) :** Speaking of this Head Sir, it is all very well to announce proposals in the House and programmes which may be bold to everyone of us, with which we may all be very pleased—it is one thing to announce these things and another to execute them.

Sir, the Minister of Communications and Aviations has attached his own responsibility to lay down the policy and to tell us what programmes he has, which he wants to be executed by the executive staff of his Ministry. It is the duty of the executive staff, of course under the supervision of the Minister of Communications and Aviations, to carry out those programmes, no matter how difficult the programmes may be. We must realise, Sir, that it is the duty of such people to execute the policy, and when we ask how best this policy could be executed, in my humble opinion, Sir, I think it can be best done by making excellent arrangements whereby the people will have satisfactory service and good conditions of service and whereby all members of the staff of the P. and T. may not be over-worked.

But let us ask ourselves, we have been criticising this Department a great deal, are the people over-worked? The answer is, "yes". I have heard on authority, Sir, that these Minister's boys on the counter, who are always the vocal point of criticism, have always been over-worked. One man sells the stamps, he sells the Postal Orders and sometimes perhaps he receives telegrams. In this situation Sir.

**The Chairman :** I do not believe anybody in this House is very interested.

**M. Maitama Sule :** It is the Minister of Communications and Aviation, Sir. I would like the Minister, therefore, to probe into this and I reserve my statement until we come to that Head.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) :** Mr Chairman, it is my duty Sir, to remind Members that we must go up to Head 38 to-day and we

have only about two hours more to go. I therefore at this stage move, That the question be now put.

*Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 30—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

*Question proposed, That £3,893,960 for Head 30—Posts and Telegraphs—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Mr Chairman, I move to reduce the Head by £10.

Now, I have been mandated by my people to express their dissatisfaction over the work of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Awka Division. The people have mandated me to show the amount of persecution and injustice in the matter of a Post Office for Aguata District. Time and again here I have brought the question courageously irrespective of its effect on my life as a politician. I have always vehemently opposed the building of a Post Office for a part of the District leaving the District Headquarters, which is at variance with the expressed policy of the Minister last year in a Private Member's motion by Mr G. O. D. Onye, Member for Udi, when the Minister had occasion to say that it was the expressed policy of his Department that preference would be given to Divisional, District and Native Authority headquarters in matters of tele-communications. But I am sorry to say that his bold and courageous policy has been greatly deviated from in Aguata District of Awka Division. Times without number I have taken all possible steps to see that justice was done to this District.

The population of Aguata is in the neighbourhood of 148,000. There are eighteen Postal Agencies in the District, all built with community labour and money. Times I have been told that the unit of work at Aguata is less than the unit of work at Ajalli, but it is surprising now that could be, and I discovered that it was planned manoeuvre by a Civil Servant who fortunately comes from Ajalli in the Department of P. and T. He is a Regional Surveyor at Enugu and he planned the scheme for the people so that all the people living abroad from that section of the District had to buy their postal orders and stamps from the Postal Agency at Ajalli to swell the number of units of work in that Postal Agency. But I must say,

in spite of that unit of work system of approving a Post Office, that a part cannot be greater than the whole. A whole District must receive preference over any part of it. This is an elementary theorem in mathematics and it is justified in building a Post Office for Aguata District pursuant to the policy of the Minister expressed on the Floor of this House last year.

Well, I must say that there are many reasons why a Post Office should be built at Aguata District headquarters. First of all, it is necessary to erect it there for administrative convenience. Now, several times there might be occasion when there will be need for urgent despatches or urgent calls and telephones or other things like that to help facilitate the process of accelerating Government work in the District. Unless there is a Departmental Post Office at Aguata, this might be hampered to some extent, causing occasional harm to the community. Well, geographically, Aguata is the centre of the District. Some of the Ministers who have travelled to that place know that it is the centre of the District and the centre of population. The section where the District headquarters is situated has a population of 99,000 as against 48,000 of the other part of this District.

Well, if you come to communications, Aguata is the centre of roads. You have a road from Awka where you have the Post Office, Nnewi, Onitsha, Orlu and the rest of it. And economically, if the Government wants to save our hard-earned money, a Post Office should be built at Aguata because already you have got telephone lines passing across Aguata just at the front of the Postal Agency which I wanted to be converted into a Departmental Post Office. It is unheard of that the Government will spend the taxpayers' money to construct new lines to a village eleven miles away, leaving the centre of population and the administrative centre which has already got telephone lines across it, unserved with a Post Office. That is unwarranted injustice if it is executed, and I will stand on my legs at any time to challenge the injustice done to my District.

Now, again I must say that the method of judging conversion of a Postal Agency into a Post Office by units of work is obsolete. It is an old policy and I want the Government to change that policy just as the British changed their old colonial policy and replaced it with one which has been discovered as a result of

experience from day to day happenings. You do not get units of work except you have a Post Office there. I want the Post Office to be built first and then expect people to transact business. And the Government must remember that if they don't build a Post Office there because the units of work are low, according to them, they are punishing the people for using their initiative to build the Post Agencies there and with their own money. If that was not done, they could have got accumulation of units of work in that one Postal Agency. So that I want this central Departmental Post Office at the District Headquarters to serve all the eighteen Postal Agencies in the District, and all the units of work of the combined eighteen Postal Agencies are the combined units of work of that Aguata Post Office.

Now, I must say that last year as a result of a question I put to the Minister, I was promised that a Departmental Post Office would be built at Aguata. It was only the site that was the stumbling block and the Minister promised that an inquiry would be held to determine the site. On two occasions we were told that the Minister from the East would hold the inquiry. I am sorry to say that I opposed that from the beginning, in the office of the Private Secretary and with the Minister. Still, he told me that there is division of labour and that the Eastern Regional Minister would undertake that.

Well, my point was that it is a Federal responsibility and I wouldn't like a Regional Minister to interpret that policy for the Government, for if the Government fails on that it will be the responsibility of the Government of this Federation and not that of the Region. I protested, and I still protest, that it is this central Minister of Communications and Aviation or his Parliamentary Secretary or Private Secretary or Adviser on Posts and Telegraphs that should come to Aguata to investigate the question of the site for the Post Office, whether it should be at Aguata District headquarters, pursuant to the expressed policy, or at Ajalli which is a town of 1,400 people.

Now, leaving that I must say that it is not necessary to hold an inquiry, for if it is not settled at Aguata, then it is a deviation and justifies indignation, because it is against the expressed policy of the Government which is to give Districts and Native Authorities,

postal facilities. It is on this account, Sir, that I want to humbly register my protest that there is not the slightest necessity to hold a commission of inquiry to settle the question of where a site for a Post Office should be. Government has already made it clear what the policy on this matter should be, and that policy, I say, should not be deviated from.

I want to say, that Government has instigated the present situation and I must say that there is something like a war there now, which has brought the people in Ajalli area to ask for a sub-District, because they see actually that the other area has a better right over the Post Office because it is the Headquarters of the whole district, and nobody from that District either a village or an ordinary individual, has challenged the right of that place to be the Headquarters. It took a lot of time and discussion before the question of the site of the District Headquarters was decided. But once that was done there was no need to carry the amenities for the whole community to a section which is out of the way, which has bad roads, impassable roads during the rainy season.

Mr Chairman, I would like these points to be taken into consideration. Fortunately, even though the Minister is not here, his adviser is here, and the Director is here. Aguata has many advantages over Ajalli in this matter. The first one (I am summarising) is its central position. It is the centre of the population, and the centre of roads coming from anywhere, whether it is from Enugu, Awka, Nnewi, Onitsha, Orlu, Owerri or from Port Harcourt—you must first of all pass through the District Headquarters to any other place you may wish to go to. If a Post Office is to be built at Ajalli then the Postal Agents will have to go there from Aguata to Ajalli then back again to Aguata before reaching home.

Next is the question of telephones. Telephone wires have already passed through the Postal Agency at Aguata. If a new Post Office is going to be built at Ajalli, it means that new telephone lines will have to be erected for Ajalli, and that will be the end of it. Telephone lines have passed through Aguata to Aro-Ndizuogu and Orlu, and it would be good if all the Postal Agencies along this route were served with telephone communications. After

all there is a precedent for this. You have Awka where the District Headquarters of Njikoka District has a Departmental Post Office: at Ogidi for the Northern District in Onitsha you have a Post Office: at Nnewi Northern District, you have a Post Office and at Orlu you have a Post Office for the District Headquarters: at Okigwi you have one: at Awgu you have one, so that Aguata should not be an exception, and I would like the Government to think about this seriously and pacify me, for unless and until it is done, I will not rest.

*Amendment proposed, That Head 30 be reduced by £10.*

**Mr Jalo Waziri (Gombe):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Minister of Communications and Aviation for his proposal to extend telephone communication facilities from Jos to Bauchi and Gombe. In view of the fact that these facilities are urgently needed I would like the Minister to see to its speedy implementation.

Also, Mr Chairman, I would like to point out to the Minister that Kumo, Bajoga and Nafada in Gombe Division need Postal Agencies, and I would like him to consider the establishment of these in the near future.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North):** Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this amendment I would like the Department to know its importance to us all. It is a very important Department to us in this House. Perhaps it is the most important Department. . . . (*Interruptions*). Yes, I know what I say. I am responsible for what I say on the Floor of this House, and I say emphatically that we do not need power, as much as we need post offices, in the rural areas. We do need power in some places, but we need post offices almost everywhere.

Everytime we come here, Sir, and ask for post offices we are told that in our particular area, the amount of business conducted in our area, is not sufficient to justify the conversion of postal agencies into post offices. I was reliably informed that the number of units required is about 18,000. Well the only solution to this will be to reduce the number considerably. That seems to me to be the

only way out otherwise we shall be coming here every year to ask for post offices, and continually we shall be told that our postal agencies do not do enough business to warrant a conversion into post offices. So the first thing to be done, Sir, is to reduce the number by, say, fifty per cent if possible.

I come from a place where we have four District Council Headquarters, Oyo North. More than half the population of the whole of Oyo Division are there, but we do not even have a single post office. This is very bad! There is one thing that I would like to explain to the Government and maybe the Director of Posts and Telegraphs. The reason why postal agencies do not appear to do enough business is—well, I will take a certain postal agency in my constituency, Sir, as an example. Shaki Postal Agency. Most of the people in Shaki trade with Ghana and the neighbouring French territory. They transact a lot of business in groundnuts with that territory. They also transact a lot of business through the post offices but they know that if any money is sent to them from say, Ghana, they will have to wait for a period of anything up to three months before they can cash their money.

So they prefer to send their money to their friends in Lagos or their friends at Ibadan or their relatives at Oyo, and so on. That is one of the reason why the business conducted there will not justify the conversion of the postal agency into a post office. But I am quite sure that once a post office is built there, even the Government will be surprised at the volume of business that will be conducted there.

Not only there. We have other places in Oyo North where most of the people are traders in Ghana and the British West African Territories, places like Igbeti and Kishi. When these people want to send money home, they choose to send the money to Ilorin in order to facilitate the cashing of the money. So these are just the reasons why the business conducted in these different postal agencies appears to be insufficient for conversion of the postal agencies into post offices.

I will appeal to the Minister to make a country-wide tour so that he may see for himself what the people in the rural areas need. If he can undertake such a country-wide tour, I am sure that he will be able to

know where the people really need a post office and where they just ask for it for mere asking.

Here in this House I am quite sure that if the Minister asks us to vote any amount of money for building post offices in rural areas, we will be prepared to support the Vote, because a greater percentage of us come from rural areas and all of us need post offices in our places. So I would like the Government to give serious consideration to our requests for post offices in rural areas.

When the Governor-General made a tour of my area just a few weeks ago, he himself expressed surprise that a place as wide as that and containing so many people does not have a single post office, how much less telephone facilities. So, I would like the Government to harken to our warnings.

There is a small telephone office at Iseyin. Whenever the Divisional Officers use it, it makes such a noise that can terrify this House. I would appeal to the Minister to improve this telephone and supply more for other places in the area. In view of the time that is far spent, I beg to support.

**M. Abdu Sule (North West Idoma):** Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very important Department, that is why we all express our views on it.

In the first place, Sir, I would like to say that the Minister of Communications and Aviation has never toured my constituency. I do not wish to accuse the Ministry of inefficiency, but when I came here last year, Sir, I spoke to the Minister about the need for postal agencies in my constituency. The Division is composed of about 500,000 people. We have a very small post office which was built as far back as 1924. It is not now able to cope with the transactions because the town has extended politically and commercially too. Therefore, it is a very good thing if he, the Minister, would find time to come to the Division and see for himself. It is only when somebody goes out himself that he will know the things the people need, as is expressed in this House by their representatives. I am very sorry to repeat it again, Sir, that the Minister or any other member of the Ministry has never toured my Division. I think that is somewhat bad.

Secondly, Sir, the people in the rural areas must be given preference as far as this is concerned. For example, the nearest post office

to a District in my Division is 63 miles away. I think hon. Jaja Wachuku knows the place. I can remember, Sir, about a month ago somebody posted an amount of money to his mother who was living about 33 miles from the Headquarters. Before the lady reached the Headquarters to cash this money and go through all these transactions, she found herself with no aid. If it is possible, Sir, to build postal agencies in the rural areas I think there is one way of doing it and that is by building them near the people. If you go to some post offices you see a lot of letters heaped without any effort to distribute them. It is not necessarily that the staff is not enough in the post offices, but some of them actually waste their time by reading papers in the office. So I think this is something that should be looked into. I would like the Minister to issue instructions to all the post offices in the country that no reading of newspapers is allowed during office hours.

Mr Chairman, Sir, that is why I say it is very good to stop these people from reading papers because by wasting their time reading newspapers in the office you find that very many people are not able to collect their mails in time. Not only that, Sir. Some letters are returned to the towns of origin without any effort being made to discover the addressees. That is something which worries everybody in the rural areas.

Finally, Sir, that post office is, as I said earlier, very small indeed and needs extension. It was built in those days mainly for communicating with headquarters, but now the town is enlarging and there are very many people wishing to make use of this post office. When they come to transact business some of these people are delayed and the Postmaster there, who has no assistance, is always very busy running here and there thereby keeping the people waiting for a long time. The sooner this is remedied the better. I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** 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 £3,893,960 for Head 30—Posts and Telegraphs—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

*Question proposed, That the sum of £227,680 Head 31—Aviation—stand part of the Budget.*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Sir, I beg to move to leave out sub-head 7 of Head 31. In moving this Amendment, Sir, in order to draw the attention of the Ministry to the substance of sub-head 7, that is Fire and Crash Vehicles: maintenance and running costs.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the importance of fire fighting equipment in our air ports cannot be over emphasized, and I believe that in one of the air ports in this country fire fighting equipments are merely treated as part of the ornaments of the air fields, with very little regard to the effectiveness of those equipments. I can recall an instance, Sir, during the tour of the Minister of Communications and Aviation at Port Harcourt, when we were all taken to the air port to see our air port staff at work. One of the highlights of the occasion, Sir, was a demonstration by the fire fighting staff at the airport.

The employees responsible lined up smartly in their uniforms; their fire fighting vehicle rolled out, and at the signal everyone of them jumped to his proper place on the vehicle. The vehicle refused to start, Sir! It took a lot of trouble by the driver but the kick starter just could not respond. It took about twenty minutes before there was any effective action from the engine, and when it did not start anyone with an average knowledge of working of the motor vehicle would have known that, from the beginning to the end, something was wrong. They did everything possible but the vehicle just would not move. We can imagine what would have happened in the event of a crash, since these things do happen with any lengthy notice or warning of fire fighting service. Therefore, Sir, that as an illustration I would submit these fire fighting services should not be treated as mere ornaments at any airport, but sufficient care should be taken to ensure that they are in working condition.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Akwivu**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move to leave out sub-head 15 of Head 31. I feel that our air fields, particularly the

international air ports in this country, are very much in the limelight. They are places where visitors and travellers have their very first impressions of this country. Again, speaking from personal experience, Sir, it makes a great deal of change—and it is a matter for very great disappointment—for one leaving the air field at Tripoli after seeing the staff there, the ground staff, the receptionists, all well dressed in their uniforms, and then landing at the air port at Kano one sees very poorly clad waiters and receptionists at the Reception Room, and in fact at every other section of the air port.

I am not levelling it as a charge against any Members of this House. I am saying what I saw myself; and this happened last August. I arrived at the air port, Sir, and found that some of the staff at the air port Reception Room did not have uniforms which were in keeping with the sort of uniforms one finds in other parts of the world. We do not mean that perhaps they should be clad in most unfavourable types of black uniform; but that they should be clad in a smart and respectable uniform. Their uniforms should be something attractive; they should impress one in order that a good first hand impression may be conveyed to visitors to this country at the first time.

I am respectfully suggesting, Sir, that we reduce the vote on this sub-head so that the Ministry should explore the possibilities of providing our ground staff here with the most suitable types of uniforms, portraying dignity and respect for our country.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Several hon. Members**: Only Mr Akwivu!

**Mr Chairman**: There is in Westminster a power for the Chairman or Speaker to select Amendments. As no such power exists out here I cannot do it. If Amendments are put down in a stream I have to call everyone. Some Members may feel that that gives rather an advantage to a person who puts down a string of Amendments, but I have no power to do anything about it.

**Mr Akwivu**: Mr Chairman, I do not move, but following your remark, Sir, I want to be assured that the fact that I put down an Amendment is not in any way to be portrayed as

securing for myself an undue advantage over other Members to have a say.

**Mr Chairman**: Not at all. I hope the hon. Member did not feel that I was making any definite pronouncement against him. It is just a fact that I am bound to call the hon. Member, although it seems unfavourable to others.

*Original Question again proposed.*

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama** (Central Zaria): Mr Chairman, Sir, much as I prefer to support Head 31, Civil Aviation, without raising any point at all, I feel that by doing so I shall be failing in my duty to the many thousands of people in Zaria who supported my election to this honourable House. I consider it a very great pity that the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation is not at this moment in the House for, Mr Chairman, I do want to speak about a most neglected air port in the whole of this Federation—Zaria Airport. Zaria, Sir, is what we in Northern Nigeria say it is—it is an important centre of learning.

In Zaria, to mention but a few, there is the famous Institute of Administration, where old techniques of local administration, including the Judiciary, are taught at Kongo. There is the famous Headquarters of the Region's Agricultural Department at Samaru. There is a branch of the College of Arts, Science and Technology, at Yelwa. There is a big Government College at Tukur, there is the Gaskiya Corporation and the Headquarters of the Region's Adult Education Department at Tudun Jukun. In short, Mr Chairman, Zaria is so full of institutions, Government, Native Administration and private, that it would take me several more minutes to enumerate them. Mr Chairman, Zaria is also a very important railway junction—trains from Lagos, Kano, Gusau and Jos are constantly rumbling their way into Zaria station; so you can see, Sir, Zaria is also a big centre of trade.

To turn to the question of the airport, there is one in Zaria. There is no doubt as to that, but it is so neglected and discarded that the farmers in the vicinity begin to look at it as potential good farmland. I can say, without any fear or doubt, that the reason mostly given for neglecting the Zaria airport is that it becomes waterlogged during the rainy season. It may be so, but is this our fault? It certainly is the fault of the Government. If the airport is repaired and brought up to date properly, there will be no question of its becoming waterlogged.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we in Zaria are getting fed up with the present situation. If we want to travel by air we have to go either to Kaduna or Kano. Well, Zaria demands most strongly that our airport be repaired and brought up to the required standards. We resent this apparent conspiracy to belittle Zaria. If the present site is not suitable, let another one be selected and a new airport built.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr E. O. Imafidon** (Benin East): I have a little comment to make. I will congratulate, Sir, the Minister of Communications and Aviation for all that he has done for Benin City and Benin Division, providing an aerodrome in Benin City, but I will say this, that there is more room for improvement. The aerodrome requires a reception room and transport to convey passengers to and from the aerodrome to the town. This, Mr Chairman, is highly desirable for the people of Benin.

As I have said, in order to save time, I want to make it known that it is the wish of my people. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Transport** (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on this Head generally, I would like to refer to a few points raised by some hon. Members. The hon. Mr Akwivu, Sir, raised the question of the fire-fighting equipment. I think my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Communication, was here when he was speaking about safety measures on aerodromes—spoke of this fire-fighting equipment at some length, and hon. Members were aware that fire-fighting machines in the Kano Aerodrome were found very effective during the last Kano air disaster. I think everybody praised the work of the people in bringing the fire under control.

Now, the hon. Member, Sir, from Zaria, Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama, spoke of the aerodrome in Zaria. We should not forget, Sir, that Zaria is only about 50 miles from Kaduna. The aerodrome in Kaduna is more or less an international aerodrome, though it has not actually become an international aerodrome, but it is, I think, an important aerodrome, and the plane service in Zaria is not as much as it should be to justify the constructing of a bigger aerodrome to compare with the one in Kaduna, or in Kano.

Now, some hon. Member, Sir, also mentioned the question of uniform for what you might

all the stewards, in different aerodromes, possibly in Kano and Lagos, and suggested that they should be the same uniform, or should be as smart as the stewards who are seen in Tripoli or in London, or in other parts of the world. I would like to tell the hon. Member, Sir, that that is the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Department, and possibly the hon. Member will note this and it will be properly passed on to the proper quarters.

**Mallam Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki** (South West Central Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama complains that there is very little that has been done in his airport at Zaria. Sir, I am from Kano: I am saying that I am of the view that so much is being done alone to the airport at Kano. Too much. (*Interruption.*) Oh, yes. Sir, there are other places in Kano; there is the post office and other places of Federal responsibility, but experience, especially during the last two years, has shown that a most substantial sum is voted and spent exclusively on the aerodrome at Kano. Well, it is our fate that it is international—we can't help it. But it is too dangerously near the town, Sir.

I know it is too late now, but I think we had better make hay while the sun shines. I think that the necessary precautionary measures should be taken when there is time, because we do not know the political situation—being what it is, anything can happen overnight. I beg support.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 32.—METEOROLOGY

*Question proposed, That £178,990 for Head 32—Meteorology—stand part of the Schedule.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 33.—FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

*Question proposed, That £44,790 for Head 33—Financial Secretary's Office—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr L. A. Lawal** (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, Sir, at every Budget Session it has been the fate of the Financial Secretary responsible for the preparation of the year's Estimates to receive either stiff criticism of the Members of this House or to have a chorus of encomiums showered on him according to the merit or the demerit of the Estimates presented before us. Usually, Sir, the Financial Secretary, like

any other human being for that matter, cannot judge or assess the merit or demerit of his own work in this respect. Such could be better done by the Members of this House who are now confronted with the realities of the present dispensation.

If, of course, credit should be given where it is due, I wish to say, Sir, that the Financial Secretary has acquitted himself creditably as an intelligent Financial Secretary. Mr Chairman, Sir, the Financial Secretary actually deserves our thanks not only because he has a comprehensive knowledge of the work he is doing, but also because he has used such comprehensive knowledge to produce such an estimate which had won for him the spontaneous ovation and applause of almost all the Members of this House. Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to warn, of course seriously too, that any expatriate officer who wishes to come to this House to enjoy the smiling countenance of the Members of this House must follow the footsteps of the Financial Secretary. But any expatriate officer whose corresponding duties fail to justify his pay will come here only to behold the ferocious visages of the Members of this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a point for the Financial Secretary and I would like him to elaborate on it when he is responding. If I am not mistaken, Sir, I think Banking is under the portfolio of the Financial Secretary. No doubt he would agree with me that it is his duty not only to work on figures, or check accounts, but also to have his department cleared when that department is impeached.

Mr Chairman, there were some allegations made in the Western House of Assembly. Two of these allegations were the concern of this Government and of the Financial Secretary in particular. With the permission of the Chairman I would like to read, Sir, the "Daily Times" of December 22, 1956, the relevant portions: "That a total of £7,000,000 had been diverted by the Action Group Government and its agencies into the National Bank over a period of years and that in this transaction the Premier did not inform the Executive Council and the other Ministers. That in explaining the investment of £1,000,000 by the Marketing Board in the National Bank, the Premier did not explain when the decision was taken and whether the decision was taken by the Executive Council". Now, when these allegations were made by the Members of the Opposition...

**The Chairman**: I am sorry if I did not hear what the Member is saying; is he not talking about the Western Region?

**Mr Lawal**: I am referring to banking as a Federal matter.

**The Chairman**: In the Federal Territory?

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): On a point of explanation, Sir: is the conduct of the Premier of the Western Region a Federal subject?

**Mr Lawal**: Banking.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): On a point of order. Banking is on the Exclusive List, and it is included in the responsibility of the Financial Secretary under section 6 of the Banking Ordinance of 1952.

**Mr Lawal**: After these allegations were made by the Members of the Opposition in the West, the members of the public were terribly assailed with fear that there was something wrong with your Department. Now, the fear of the members of the public became tremendously augmented when that Government refused to submit to a Commission of Inquiry. Now, this is the question I have for the Financial Secretary and I would like him to elaborate on it when he chooses to respond. One, Sir. When that 'pocket' Governor refused to recommend...

**Several Opposition Members**: Withdraw! Withdraw!

**The Chairman**: I am not sure if I heard the phrase, "when that..."?

**Mr Lawal**: When the Governor of the Western Region refused to recommend the institution of a Commission of Inquiry, what step did the Financial Secretary take to clear that Department, or to allay the fears of the members of the public that something is wrong with that Department? Tell us, Sir. Did you at any time submit any report to the Council of Ministers to show that you have not winked at the allegations against your Department? If nothing was done, will you just in a nutshell elucidate the point of justification for your protracted reticence?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr E. C. W. Howard** (Special Member): Mr Chairman, in his speech the Financial Secretary said that one of the needs of this country was to have sources of capital for investment. I think it is well known that one

of the substantial sources of investing capital in the United Kingdom is the life funds of insurance companies, the large insurance companies. It is also, I think, known that to assist the building up of such funds the United Kingdom Government gives a preferential rate of tax on such funds. Since it would be in the interests of Nigeria that similar funds were built up which would be available for capital investment in this country, it is hoped that if and when, as we hope, the United Kingdom Government changes its own tax laws to enable suitable adjustment to be made in Nigeria, the Financial Secretary will not fail to take this particular item into account.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Chairman, one point I want to bring before the Financial Secretary. I do not know whether the Financial Secretary is aware of the fact that a number of foreign companies that operate in this country are now converting themselves to Nigerian companies in the form of agencies. I have one example, the E. D. Lines Agencies Limited. These companies pounds make millions of profit, they plough back the money in their own countries, then they put before us puppet agencies; the agencies register themselves as Nigerian companies, register with very little nominal capital and then these companies pay them commission for their work as agents, and you can only tax them on the profits they make as agents.

Now I want to know if it is not a very serious depletion of the Income Tax profits. What is the Financial Secretary doing to prevent that depletion? I think a lot of revenue is being lost. How is that point being debated.

**Some hon. Members**: No system at all.

**Mr Wachuku**: What is happening now in this country, Sir? That is the point I want to put forward.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode** (Ife): Mr Chairman, before I proceed with the Department of the Financial Secretary, I must say that it is my duty to make a few remarks in connection with the allegations made by the hon. Member from Ibadan. Mr Chairman, I believe the proper forum for the discussion of any inquiry is the Legislature of the particular Region concerned.

It is true that the Financial Secretary has some power over banking, there is no doubt about that, but it is also true that if my hon.



and learned Friends on any side of the House will take care to look into the Banking Ordinance, they will see quite clearly the powers conferred upon the Financial Secretary, and nobody is restricting him from using his powers. I would like to say that it is quite unfair for a Member to bring before this forum a question upon which we cannot make any defence. Ordinary allegations, without any specific charges being brought before the House, of this nature are completely improper, because we are not aware of the allegations made and the defence raised at the time of the issues of the inquiry we are debating. I do not think the Financial Secretary himself will tell this House that he has got the power to over-ride the decision.

Sir, I will now proceed to deal with the Financial Secretary's Office. I must say that it is most surprising for me to come to this House and listen with understanding, any form of understanding, whatever, to a speech from the Financial Secretary. The last Financial Secretary, able as he was, was in the habit of making his Budget speech completely Greek to Members of this House.

**Some hon. Members :** And we are not Greek.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** I can assure hon. Members that very few of us could ever understand what he was talking about, but in this Session I must congratulate the Financial Secretary for the very able speech. He brought everything down to our level. (*Cheers*). I am always pleased to give credit where it is due and I still insist that next time I would like to see him in the box up there. (*Laughter*). All the same, I must say we all appreciate the trouble it must have taken him to bring such a speech before this House and also the difficulties he must have had in presenting the Budget which he did, to this House.

There is one other matter which I hope he will look into and that is in the interim period between now and the time he leaves the most august office which he now holds, we hope he will do something towards helping Nigerians to fill the important post. Many Members in this House say we want self-government this year, many say we want it between now and 1959 but those who say we want it between now and 1959, and I am certain what they mean is 1959, that is the latest hour upon

which all Members of this House will demand self-government. It might surprise expatriates if we choose to demand it tomorrow.

**Some hon. Members :** Yes, tomorrow.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** If you all agree. (*Cheers*). The Gentlemen who said within 1959 know what they are saying and I think we all understand what that time means. I am certain and I am hoping that when he comes back from the Conference, he might shorten that period to such an extent that he might come back with self-government.

Secondly, on the issue of Nigerianisation. We look again to the view of the Financial Secretary and we regret to say that Nigerians are not moving as fast as they should. I do not like to repeat myself over that issue but I do think this House could put more emphasis on the point.

I support the hon. Member completely who stated that "courtesy begets courtesy". In this House, Members shall not tolerate insolence and I am using that word with the greatest sense of responsibility; Members shall not tolerate impudence from any section of the House but, at the same time, Members like respect and courtesy and I can say, from the moment the hon. Financial Secretary entered this House, he has treated every Member of this House with the utmost courtesy. I, for one, shall be happy to address any questions to the hon. Financial Secretary personally on the Floor of this House; but there are certain Members of the Council of Ministers that when questions are really due to them nobody—at least speaking for myself, my questions have always been directed to the Council of Ministers and never to that particular person who holds the office. For instance, I will never direct any question to the hon. Chief Secretary; any question that is due to him I shall put to the Council of Ministers.

**The Chairman :** That is irrelevant.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that, but I think what I said is quite understood. Again, Sir, as somebody suggested, I think I have made my point and I think it is the right time to stop.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation (Mr F. D. C. Williams) :** Time is getting on, and I should like to refer to certain of the points made by hon. Members who have contributed to the debate on this Motion.

In regard to investments representing Life Insurance Funds, I can assure the hon. Member that an approach on the lines that he is advocating is one that the Government will study very seriously. As in so many cases, the feasibility of these matters at present is limited by the nature of United Kingdom legislation, but I can assure the House that my office, and the Government as a whole, is concerned to stimulate investment by every means possible and if we can take advantage of changes in the United Kingdom to improve one or two aspects of our Income Tax Law, I am confident that the Government will move in that direction.

With regard to the point raised, Sir, by the hon. Jaja Wachuku regarding the conversion of overseas companies into Nigerian agencies, I think probably he was thinking of shipping companies.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** I gave that as an example.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :** There is a provision in section 9 of the existing Income Tax Ordinance which states that the gains or profits from the business of operating ships or aircraft carried on by persons not resident in Nigeria shall be exempt from tax provided that a reciprocal exemption from tax is granted by the country in which such person is resident. So that exemption is already granted in our law and also in the double taxation arrangement with the United Kingdom. There is already in the Statute legal exemption for profits earned by overseas transport companies. Therefore, if one such company creates an agency in Nigeria, it does not alter the income tax position.

Now, it may be that that particular position of our law requires looking at again. It is embodied not only in the double taxation arrangements with the United Kingdom but is a normal provision of international conventions relating to the question of double taxation and I would not like at this stage to say anything more than that the Government will certainly look at the point the hon. Member raises but we will have to have regard to normal international practice.

Finally, Sir, the hon. Fani-Kayode referred, and, if I may say so, quite rightly, to the question of Nigerianisation both in my office and

in the Departments which come within the portfolio of the Financial Secretary. If I may do so without impertinence, I would like to echo what he said because I venture to suggest that whatever developments take place in Nigeria, whatever the pace of those developments, finance and economics are a basis which is completely essential for the national progress of this country. (*Cheers*.) Now, as far as my office is concerned, it was a disappointment to me on returning to Nigeria to find that one of my former Nigerian colleagues is now no longer in Finance but is occupying a superscale post in the office of my hon. colleague the Chief Secretary, and another Nigerian officer who was Assistant Financial Secretary a year or two ago has been translated to higher and perhaps more onerous duties in the Western Region. I therefore have to inform the House with regret that as of to-day, there are no superscale Nigerian officers in my office. Of the ten Assistant Secretaries here in the Estimates, five are substantive Nigerian Assistant Secretaries and two are acting Nigerian Assistant Secretaries.

As far as the Departments are concerned—I am pretty pressed for time—but I would like just to point out that, taking perhaps the biggest Department, Customs and Excise, in 1955-56 66% of the senior posts were filled by Nigerians. In the year that is just closing, 71%. As far as the Treasury is concerned, the figures for 1954-55 were 37% and in the most recent year they were 44%. That is a progression which I know will not satisfy the House but I can assure hon. Members that both I and the Heads of Departments with whom I am associated share the views of this hon. House on this subject.

*Original question put and agreed to.*

**Head 33—Financial Secretary's Office**  
£44,790—agreed to.

**HEAD 34—CUSTOMS AND EXCISE**

*Question proposed, That £44,670 for Head 34—Customs and Excise—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** I know we have to race along very quickly but I will make two points on the Customs. The hon. the Financial Secretary has given us some figures; the year previous, 66 Africans were promoted into senior posts and last year, 71. That has not answered our question wholly.

How senior were those posts to which they have been promoted? How senior were those senior posts? There are such things as junior posts. Our own impression is that many Africans who are promoted to senior posts are often promoted to junior senior posts, and that is not even our main contention. In the Customs, for example, this particular Department, it is most discouraging that we have very few Africans who really occupy positions of responsibility in the Customs.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** That was why I left them.

**Chief S. L. Akintola:** That's the point. That was why hon. T. O. S. Benson left the Customs. He was then a junior clerk at the bottom rung of the ladder. In other words, he was a third-class clerk or a glorified messenger.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson:** Point of Order, Sir.

**Chief S. L. Akintola:** I am not yielding, Sir. Now, of late some Africans were promoted in the Customs but they were promoted not to posts of real responsibility. If members will start from the top, from the Comptroller; you have the Comptroller, Deputy Comptroller, Assistant Comptroller—there are five of them and not one single African among them. Then the Chief Inspector, Principal Collector, Inspectors and Instructors—all these are expatriate. Why is it that not one single African all these years has been considered competent enough to occupy what you may describe real positions in the Customs? There are many competent Africans in the Customs Department. In other spheres we may be told tales, we may be told that there are no suitable people. After all, with due deference, what do they do in the Customs? They must ensure that those who import materials pay their dues and what else do they do honestly? And a good many of these people have been there for thirty, forty, some of them for as long as forty-five years and they are still at the bottom rung of the ladder.

We will not be satisfied with mere generalisation. In future years, I will like the Financial Secretary or whoever may take his place to tell us as from this date until the next Budget Session how many Africans were really promoted in the Customs to really responsible posts. And there is something which is being done in the Customs which must be discouraged. Whenever an African is to be promoted to a

grade, new posts will be provided for expatriates which will carry greater responsibility and greater salary to what is being given to the African. I think the position must be changed and as rapidly as possible. If possible, let us have a date line and say—as from next year on or any date you may choose, no more expatriate officers should be brought to the Customs. After all, what do they do there? They must know only the four simple rules, add up figures, divide or subtract. What else do they do there? What type of expert knowledge is required to be a Matthew, to be a tax gatherer? It doesn't take more than to know the four simple rules and we must make it possible that no more should expatriate officers be employed in the Customs here.

The next point that I like to make about the Customs is about the point which was raised here some time ago. We are terribly losing revenue. There is too much leakage in the Customs here. A lot of stealing is going on there. Some sort of racket is going on. What is the best way to stop it?

I think the time has come for the Comptroller in co-operation with the Financial Secretary and Members of the Government to put their heads together to find the best way to put an end to smuggling which is going on at a terrific rate,—not only in Lagos, Apapa and Port Harcourt, for there it is at its lowest ebb—but in some of the out-of-the-way places, where it is going on at a terrible rate, and we are losing fantastic sums of money. If need be make a fresh provision to strengthen the number of Preventive Officers in the Customs Depots, so that they will be able to check effectively the number of cases of smuggling and thereby the result from it will be an improvement in the revenue of the country.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano Urban Area):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I have been prompted to say a word or two on this Head. The question of smuggling has been touched upon satisfactorily by the Leader of the Opposition, but if we really want to save the revenue of this country—for we have been complaining about the losses that have been incurred by way of smuggled goods into the country without the payment of the necessary import duty—well, the only way to do that, Sir, is to improve the service conditions of the people working in the Customs Department, that is, the Africans. If you put anybody in a position of trust, and

you want him to work well, you must pay him well. (*Hear, hear*). Government does not pay these people well; promotions are not carried out properly, and the result is that the staff are dissatisfied and therefore it is not difficult for them to be tempted. Give them better service conditions and better pay, and the job will be well done. (*Applause*).

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Point of explanation, Sir. I did not suggest that the Customs Officers were the thieves, therefore the question of pay, or salaries, does not arise from my own observations. I agree that they should be well paid, but a good many of the smugglers are outside of the service. This problem of smuggling can only be checked with the co-operation of the Police and the Customs Department.

Smuggling occurs in the Cameroons, in the hinterland, and on the boundaries, therefore I say that something more positive must be done, to check this dreadful loss of revenue. "Honesty is the best policy"—but I know of millionaires who are rogues. If the staff are not paid well, it does not matter, a thief is a thief.

**M. Maitama Sule:** On a further point of explanation, Sir, I am not suggesting either that the Leader of the Opposition is saying that, but in order to get the co-operation of the people working there, it is absolutely necessary to make them satisfied and happy in their work, so that we can stamp out this sort of thing.

**Mr Z. B. Olokesusi (Ekiti South):** On the point of raising our revenue, Sir, I think the only point I can add to those raised by the Leader of the Opposition is, I don't know whether the Financial Secretary knows that the accounts of very many branches in the Customs and Excise Department are not audited until there is trouble. I think that in a Department where the bulk of the revenue of the country accrues, a regular audit of the accounts should be carried out, so that any fraud can be quickly detected. I think if that is done it will do much to help our revenue in the future, and also improve the honesty of the people working in the Department.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman proceeded forthwith to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 35 to 38.*

## HEAD 35.—INLAND REVENUE

£141,520 for Head 35.—Inland Revenue—*agreed to.*

## HEAD 36.—STATISTICS

£90,820 for Head 36.—Statistics—*agreed to.*

## HEAD 37.—TREASURY

£133,440 for Head 37.—Treasury—*agreed to.*

## HEAD 38.—VALUATION UNIT

£14,220 for Head 38.—Valuation Unit—*agreed to.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Committee report progress: to sit again to-morrow*

## Adjournment

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. Unsworth):** Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh):** Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr Speaker:** Mallam Ibrahim Gusau, as a new Member, perhaps is not aware of the fact that he has to give me notice in writing both of the subject he wishes to raise on the Adjournment, and also the name of the Minister who agrees to take the subject. He must negotiate with the Minister and get his agreement to answer before he can raise the point on the Adjournment. That rule is on the Members' Notice Board outside.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes to twelve o'clock until 9 a.m. on Saturday, 16th March, 1957.*

## QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

*Question—*

**W.69. Prince R. N. Takon** asked the Minister of Works:—

What progress has been made in the laying of a bituminous surface on the Trunk Road A running through Abakaliki and thence to Mamfe in the Southern Cameroons?

Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** It is not clear from this question which part of Trunk Road A. 11 is being referred to. However the section between Enugu and Abakaliki is due to be resealed by direct labour shortly. The section between Abakaliki to Yahe is also due for tarring under the Economic Programme and consultants have been approached to prepare survey and contract documents for this work.

Question—

**W.76. Mr F. N. E. Ngale** asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state why no provision has been made in the Federal Economic Development Plan for the construction and the laying of a bituminous surface on the Ikom-Mamfe road?

Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** The hon. Member will be pleased to hear that the laying of a bituminous surface on trunk road A. 11 between Ikom and Mamfe has already started. The House will be interested to know that this work is being financed from funds provided by the International Co-operation Administration of the United States of America.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NIGERIA

Saturday, 16th March, 1957

The House met at 9 a.m.

### PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I wish to inform hon. Members that I have decided on a number of changes in Members' seats. That is to answer the appeal to me, on behalf of the U.M.B.C., by Mr Dokotri. A list will be put on the Notice Board during the course of this morning and hon. Members will please occupy their new seats on Monday next, the 18th of March. (*Applause.*)

### BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, this morning five Government Bills will be read for the first time, and the rest of the morning and Monday the 18th of March will be spent in Committee of Supply.

Tuesday, 19th March, will be a Private Members' day and the following Motions will be debated :—

Motion No. 51—Special Traffic Constabulary, moved by Chief J. I. G. Onyia ;

Motion No. 72—Road Development in the Southern Cameroons, moved by Mr P. A. Aiyuk ;

Motion No. 68—Helicopter Services moved by Mr E. C. Akwiwu ;

Motion No. 65—Damage to Young Crops by Beetles, moved by Mr F. U. Mbakogu ;

Motion No. 70—Extension of Railway Line in Eastern Region, moved by Mr E. C. Akwiwu ;

Motion No. 69—Mr Ben Enwuonwu, Art Adviser, moved by Mr E. C. Akwiwu ;

Motion No. 66—Trunk "A" Roads, moved by Mr E. C. Akwiwu.

The rest of the week will be spent in Committee of Supply and the Committee will complete its work on Saturday, 23rd March.

### PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

#### GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SECURITIES BILL

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :** Second Reading—Monday, 25th March, 1957.

### SALE OF PRODUCE BILL

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :** Second Reading—Monday, 25th March, 1957.

#### WRECKS AND SALVAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Transport :** Second Reading—Monday, 25th March, 1957.

#### POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Second Reading—Monday, 25th March, 1957.

#### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Second Reading—Monday, 25th March, 1957.

### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### THE APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY)

(House in Committee)

#### HEAD 39—MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND WELFARE

*Question proposed, That the sum of £20,770 for Head 39—Ministry of Labour and Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) :** Mr Chairman I rise to support this Head and, in doing so, I wish to say that this House has never stinted praise where praise is due. The present incumbent of the office of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare richly deserves the thanks of this House in the way he has courageously and boldly prosecuted the duties of his Office. It is not at all difficult to observe that the Minister has brought into this Office much enthusiasm and much energy. This is exemplified in the very rich crop of social legislation which this House has had the privilege to push through, legislation which, in other parts of the world, has taken much longer time and much agitation to bring into being. The Minister has piloted such legislation through this House without very great pains.

It is a very great credit to him and Members will observe that in this very sitting, only a few days ago, they had the privilege of passing a Bill which added another chapter to the Book of Freedom of workers of this country : I refer to the Wages Boards Bill which has now become Law. In this connection too one will not fail to observe that the Factories Bill, the provisions of which are already being implemented, has done a lot for the workers also.

Now, not only would I like to dwell on the past of this Ministry but it reflects much credit also to observe that the Minister is contemplating introducing an Adult Probation Service into Lagos. Those of us who have anything to do with the administration of justice in this country know that the introduction of an Adult Probation Service will bring much needed relief to the people of Lagos.

It has been said that the prison population of this country is 80 per cent first offenders: that reveals a very shocking state of affairs. In the civilized world to-day punishment is not regarded as merely retributive; I think the public sense of goodness seems now to lean more on the side of reformation; the reformative effect of punishment, more than any other angle, is the aim. So that the lack of probation for adults in this country has contributed greatly to the swelling of the prison population and I know from experience that many young men are now languishing in gaol because of the lack of Probation Officers.

Very often in the courts Magistrates give young offenders an option of fine but, in many cases, these young men have not the means with which to discharge the fine, although it may be a paltry sum, and instead they must go to languish in gaol for three or six months, merely because of their inability to pay the fine. But in a place where you have Probation Officers these Officers are able to bring promptly to the notice of the young men's friends, who may be in a position to help them, that the Magistrate was kind enough to give them the option of paying a fine and this may prevent the young men being sent to that unholy of unholies, the prison house, where much evil is learnt and very little good is taught.

So I think, Sir, the Minister has shown much imagination in dealing with the social problems of this country, particularly in Lagos. Those of you who have seen something that has been done with regard to recreational facilities for boys, in the fight against juvenile delinquency, will know that the Minister is a man who is really out to effect a change in the social atmosphere of Lagos.

I do pray that the time will come when the fruit of his services will not only be apparent in Lagos but throughout the country.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr P. M. Dokotri (Jos):** Mr Chairman, all I want to say is to ask the Minister of Labour what he is doing to remove that black spot on his beautiful attire. By that I am referring to the labour dispute on the Plateau Minesfield. It is all very well for the Minister to appoint a man as capable as he is large to chairman the Joint Industrial Council—the Deputy Speaker of the House. But I should say, Mr Chairman, that the mines workers are not interested in how large their Chairman is. What concerns them most, what worries them most, what they would like to see done is that they be given a fair chance in the labour employment on the Plateau Minesfield.

I have said it here, Mr Chairman, that the mining employers are often on an advantage against their employees. This is purely because they enjoy a very ample monopoly on the Plateau Minesfield. I have stressed it in this House that one of the steps that Government can take to remove the constant threat to peace on the Plateau is to establish more industries in that area. This, Mr Chairman, will provide alternative employment to the existing industry there.

I am satisfied that the Minister has been successful in bringing through the Wages Bill in this House. I am sure the Minister will be good enough to implement this Bill to improve the labour conditions on the Plateau Minesfield. It is my humble view, Sir, that conditions on the Plateau Minesfield are not as good as they should be. This I think should be improved if the Minister will only look into it.

The mining industry on the Plateau Minesfield is, as I have pointed out in this House, doing very well. The total earnings are about £12 million. This is not an industry which can be allowed to continue as it is at the moment. For the past fifty years or so this industry had amassed great wealth to the various operators. It is time that this country, this Government, looks into it that since so much wealth has been removed from the country a lot more can be returned in various amenities, things like providing scholarships to the various mining employees on the Plateau and particularly to the deserving sons and children of the farmers who have been deprived of their land.

**An hon. Member:** You mean the labourers?

**Mr Dokotri:** I will not be contented to be a labourer on the minesfield and those of us here who wish can as well apply to the mining industry and they will be sure to get employment there.

It has always been pointed out that compensation in one way or the other is being paid to the various workers on the Plateau Minesfield but compensation in the way of cash is not sufficient. With these few remarks I support.

**Chief E. O. Omolodun (Oyo South):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I support this Head. In doing so I have only a few words to add to what has already been said this morning. The Minister in charge of Labour has acquitted himself creditably well in the work that was allotted to him. Everyone of us who has read of his activities outside Nigeria will know that he has earned great fame for Nigeria. (Applause). He has been able to promote the welfare of the people of Nigeria to a certain extent.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** At least more than Akintola!

**Chief Omolodun:** If he does not follow Akintola he is not up to the standard. I agree with him; at the same time I hope he will not say that I am blowing hot and cold, if I quarrel with him. I quarrel with him only in two respects. First, he has neglected to visit the rear West but only the Mid-West. He forgets that we have children who might have needed his services.

The first speaker this morning credited him with what he has been able to do for the young of Lagos but I believe that his duty is not only confined to Lagos but to the whole Federation of Nigeria. He has neglected that. Secondly, I find in the Estimates an allowance of £500 for him and I believe he has never drawn the one of last year. I am surprised that it is again allotted to him because he never entertained anyone here (laughter). He has always been coming to Lagos: why give him this entertainment allowance? I believe this entertainment allowance is meant for what it is voted. If the people will not use it why give them this allowance?

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I support.

**Mallam Abdu Sule (North West Idoma):** Mr Chairman, the Minister has done his best to improve the welfare of the people of this country. Yesterday I said something about

lack of visits of Ministers and I am sorry I have to say it again this morning. There are a lot of our unfortunate brothers who are roaming about not only in Lagos but elsewhere in this country. There are very many blind men; some people are not able to maintain themselves. I think it is the duty of the Minister to ensure that these people are properly looked after.

Last year I said something about our unfortunate brothers who are hanging all about in Lagos who have no people to look after them. I think the time has come when this Government should try to provide a house for these old brothers of ours. Some of these people can live longer if the Government can look after them well. So I think the Minister should try and see that these people are properly housed and fed.

It is not only here in Lagos but also in the Northern Region. You have very many people who are not able to maintain themselves. I think the Minister would do very well to go out himself and see how many of these people are in the Northern Region so that when he comes back he will arrange as to how best the people can be kept in good houses. I beg to support.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support and to associate myself with all the encomiums showered on the Minister of Labour.

I have only one point to make, and this point is, Mr Chairman, we Nationalists in this country are still sincerely disposed to have expatriates who man all technical posts in this country—sincerely disposed—and we do not mince a word in saying so.

We would like to offer the money we have voted for all the posts created here to see that an African is allowed to attain to one of the top grades.

I once posed a question, that was in 1955, to find out the necessary qualifications required of the Labour Officer to reach the top grade. Up to this moment, I do not know what these qualifications are, and I hope and I pray that the Minister of Labour and Welfare will make it possible for the Africans in the Department to hold the topmost post there, at least to hold the post of Deputy Commissioner of Labour, or Assistant Commissioner of Labour. There are Nigerians working there and it is depressing

to us Nationalists, always to be told we have not suitable men, and I hope that when this vote is passed, we shall have an African man the topmost of these posts.

Sir, with these remarks I beg to support.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Mr Chairman Sir, I do not like to repeat the encomiums showered on the Minister. We all realise that the position of the Minister of Labour and Welfare is not only important, but it is also extremely delicate, and I must congratulate the Minister in that he has been able to carry that delicate balance with a little bit of equanimity.

I would also congratulate him on another point, and that is, I have noticed that he has endeavoured, times without number, to tell the workers of this country some bitter truths. It is not an easy task for a Minister of Labour to keep on hammering from time to time on the importance of increased production, since this is not a song which the workers relish. The only song that most of the workers of to-day relish is one for more and more pay, but the Minister is not tempted always to sing a song that will sound attractive to the workers. He always creates the impression that he recognised his duty to the country, and in discharge of his duty he would not be in fear of incurring a little bit of unpopularity among the workers, I hope he will continue to hammer this point, because on it depends not only the economic prosperity of this country, but the continued welfare of the workers themselves. With increased production the position of the country will be improved, and when workers make demands for better conditions, the country and the employers generally, will be able to afford an increase and the improvement that the workers seek.

One point on which I would like the Minister to devote more attention, during the coming months is the importance of having a responsible Central Labour Organisation in Nigeria.

I know he must have done a lot in the past to see that we had an organisation which could to some extent speak for the labour front of the whole country. It is unfortunate that a great confusion has been created and nobody knows now what organisation is in a position to speak generally for the workers of this country.

It is not my part to apportion blame. Whether the right wing of the ANTUF is

right, or it is the left wing of the ANTUF that is right, or whether the portion of the ANTUF which sets its eyes on Moscow are right, or the other portion which always receives bounties from Washington are right. But whoever may be right or wrong, it will be in the best interests of this country for us to build up a responsible trade union organisation.

There are many of them and it would be a waste of time for the Ministry of Labour on every issue to have to deal with about five hundred different Trade Unions. It will save the time of the Minister and the time of the country if we can have one responsible central organisation. Therefore any efforts that he may put forth either to strengthen the existing central organisation and co-operate and win for it the confidence of all the workers in the country, or if this is impossible, to assist in evolving or establishing a new Central Organisation, would be in the best interests of the people of this country.

The position, as I said before, is very much confused at the moment, and I would like the Minister to devote more time to this all important question.

The second point to which I would invite the attention of the Minister is migrant labour to Fernando Po.

Now dealing with the condition of service of these men is also very delicate, and what has made it more delicate is that it involves dealing between two different Governments. But our own responsibility in the matter is clear, and I hope that the Minister of Labour will take the matter up with his counterpart in the Eastern Region. It is disgraceful that at this stage of our development, when we need all the manpower that we can commandeer, Nigerians and by that I mean Nigerians with all the attributes of masculinity, are leaving this country to go and earn a sum of money which is less than £1 a month somewhere else. Some organisation must be lacking somewhere. Something must be wrong in our planning in this country.

I have been to Fernando Po myself and I have seen a lot of Nigerian manhood serving other people when we could provide employment for them in this country, and when they could contribute their own quota towards the economic development of the country.

What causes a lot of these people to leave the country? We say that the spirit of adventure has moved them. Granted, but it is not only the spirit of adventure, it is also partly due to some deficiency in our economic planning in this country.

I was surprised, and I think the Minister will bear me out. Comparatively speaking, the conditions of labour in the C.D.C. in the Cameroons, next door to the Eastern Region, are far better than employers in Fernando Po offer. But even in spite of that, either as a result of ignorance or the workers do not know what the possibilities are that exist in their own country, they travel very far to other spheres. They are serving people in other countries. I am sure, both in the North and even in the West, I have gathered, especially from the Ministry of Works, that the road development, extension of road works, suffers for want of labour. Labourers cannot be easily found, is true, but in spite of the fact that opportunities for employment exist here, our men leave our own country and they go abroad.

I agree with the Minister that the position has improved a lot, but I want the hon. Members to accept one more fact. A man who owes £1 million, is a debtor, and when he pays a penny out of it, he has improved his position a little, but still, what is he? A debtor. Well, what is the position in Fernando Po? It is disgraceful in many respects, and in some respects, judged purely by the standards of the Spanish people, it is very good—it is fairly good, but judged by our own standards, there is a lot of room for improvement.

Now, what is the Federation of Nigeria going to do? Can we join hands with the Government of the Eastern Region to find a system which will attract our own people, our own young men, to remain in this country and to work for us in this country. Those who would go then may be only people who are compelled to go, as a result of urge for adventure. Most of those who go now don't go only to satisfy their desire for adventure; they were forced out by the economic situation in some parts of the country.

I would also invite the attention of the Minister to the conditions of service of employees of the Syrians and the Lebanese. We have said this, times without number. We have all deplored the conditions of service

of those who are unfortunate to seek employment under Syrians and Lebanese. I don't want to be accused of generalisation; I know there are some Syrians and some Lebanese who have proved themselves good employers of labour, but the exception proves the rule. Those who are really good among them would not be more than a drop in an ocean. The others have not created an attractive or a fair condition of labour for those who work under them. But I would appeal to the Minister, to treat this particular class as a distinct group, and to perhaps call a conference with those who are responsible for labour in the North, in the East, in the West and the Cameroons, and when next we meet, we would like a White Paper consisting of different proposals for the solution of the problem presented by this particular class of employers.

The one other point I would like to appeal to the Minister about is—my information may sometimes be wrong, but it is almost invariably correct. I understand on good authority, which may be not quite as high as that of our hon. the Chief Secretary, that the gentleman who has been earmarked as temporary Nigerianisation Officer, is a senior member from the Ministry of Labour. We have been told that he has been found to be satisfactory; he measures up to the standards which might have been prescribed. But the only snag is the Ministry of Labour cannot spare him. If that is the case we would appeal to the Minister to use his good offices to find some others in the Department of Labour, to take his place, so that he may be free to assume his full responsibility as substantive holder of the post of Nigerianisation Officer. If it is the same gentleman, I am thinking of, I am fortunate to have known him personally, and I am sure that we would consider ourselves fortunate if we could secure his services as Nigerianisation Officer.

But I would issue a warning. If a man is good, and we want a good man for the post, we must create conditions which will be attractive enough for him to occupy that post. If the Nigerianisation Officer is to become a back-room boy to the Chief Secretary, no responsible Nigerian will accept the post. It is not only a question of money; it is not only a question of status; it is also a question of giving him the status and the dignity that his office commands. If the Minister of Labour will co-operate with us and use his good offices

to persuade those who are responsible to release this gentleman, he shall have rendered a great service to this House, and to the country in general.

Well, I have said enough in praise of the Minister of Labour. Now, when the Minister—when any Minister of this country, travels abroad, he travels as a representative of Nigeria, and anybody with sense of responsibility, whatever may be his party, must receive him as a representative Nigerian. He must be accorded all the dignity and all the respect that his office deserves, but when a man—a Federal Minister—goes abroad to issue out edicts of the N.C.N.C., or talks about the glories of the N.P.C., or the glories of the Action Group, he is not actually living up to the standard required of him. I would, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Labour, next time when he leaves this country, let him take the Action Group politics, the N.C.N.C. politics, the N.P.C. politics, and let him find an envelope large enough, put it inside, seal it, and leave it behind. When he goes abroad, let him speak always, not as a politician but as a Federal Minister of whom every Nigerian ought to be justly proud.

**Mr F. E. Offor (Okigwi):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to associate myself wholeheartedly with the first speaker under this Head, and I have to congratulate the Minister of Labour, especially on the role he has been playing at our Fernando Po level. We now receive less complaints from our people working there. He has achieved in less than two years what other people failed to achieve in many years.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh):** To reply briefly to some of the points made by the hon. Mr Dokotri about the workers in the minesfield: it is not such a gloomy picture as he tried to paint this morning. I want to remind him that the Mining Industry is a very important Industry in the economy of this country, and of the Northern Region in particular. I would be very happy if the hon. Member will take more interest in checking his facts, and if he will give us some time to find our feet, about the Joint Industrial Council to which we have appointed an independent Chairman, who actually is doing his work most satisfactorily. (Applause).

I wish to say that my policy is to work in close unity and co-operation with my counterparts in the Regions, and I would suggest that the hon. Member should take into consideration that the Mining Industry has a lot to do with the revenue of the Northern Regional Government, and therefore it is not necessary for me to over-step the boundaries of my jurisdiction, or step on the shoes of my counterpart in the Northern Region. I can assure you that both the Minister of the Northern Region and myself are constantly in touch with the Trade Union leaders in the mines and we feel that, at the moment, there may be some disagreement, but there is no need for any alarm.

Now, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has raised the question of Trade Union leaders. I don't think, Sir, an Amendment has been filed under the Labour Head about Trade Union officials, and I might conjecture that the hon. Member who filed that Amendment will be talking about Trade Union Organisation. I am prepared this morning, when we come to it, and if it is raised, to offer an explanation, or give my views or make a statement about what I feel about Trade Union organisation in Nigeria. I therefore ask the Leader of the Opposition to be patient with me, until we come to that Head, and I shall make a statement if it is raised again.

Also, about the Nigerianisation Officer, which the Leader of the Opposition has raised: I must say this, that it is not within my power to appoint anyone to the Civil Service of Nigeria, but please...

**Chief Akintola (Oshun West):** If it were within the Minister's power, what would he do?

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare:** I would do what is best for Nigeria. (Applause.)

The only assurance I want to give is that the Chief Secretary and His Excellency, as well as the Public Service Commission, are doing their very best, and I can assure the Leader of the Opposition and hon. Members that when a Nigerianisation Officer is appointed, he will be a responsible and capable Nigerian.

Finally, Sir, I have to say that Nigerianisation of the Department of Labour is proceeding satisfactorily. Assistant Labour Officers are being trained, and we are doing everything possible to see that Labour Officers who really merit promotion are given promotion. I wish

to say that I am particularly interested in the question of Nigerianisation. My Commissioner of Labour, as well as my Permanent Secretary, are working towards that, and there is no need to fear.

Now, Sir, finally for the meantime I wish to say that I am very grateful to the whole House for the way they have showered some praises on me this morning. I feel very grateful indeed and I do hope that I will continue to live up to your expectations.

**M. Shehu Shagari (North West Sokoto):** Sir, during the debate on External Affairs I pointed out that it is now time for this country to look after the interests of Nigerians living or working in the new Ghana State. Sir, if we fail in diplomatic relations because we started too late, I think we can succeed in international labour relations as we have done in Fernando Po and Gabon. Sir, Nigerians, wherever they are, look forward towards their mother country, Nigeria, for help and it is the responsibility of this Government to see to their welfare, especially if they are workers. And everybody in this House is aware of the fact that the number of Nigerian workers in Ghana is greater than the number of Nigerian workers in the Island of Fernando Po and if that island deserves to have a Nigerian Labour Office, so does Ghana. Sir, apart from Nigerians working in the mines, cocoa plantations and the ports in Ghana, there are thousands who go there every year as casual workers in various trades and all these being taxpayers in Nigeria deserve the attention of this Government.

I therefore suggest that a Labour Office be established in Ghana as soon as possible.

With these, I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, while supporting all the speeches and encomiums poured on the Minister of Labour, I move that the question be now put.

*Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 40—LABOUR

*Question proposed, That the sum of £214,360 for Head 40—Labour—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Mr Chairman, I move to reduce Sub-Head 1 by £5. Mr

Chairman, I simply wish to refer this House to what is happening in the Labour front. There is danger, and the danger is being caused by the workers themselves. I wish to make use of item 7 to bring this point to this hon. House. In Item 7 we are being asked to make provision for three Labour Officers in charge of trade unions on a salary of £3,838. Now, the point I wish to make is that much has not been done by these officers in the past to avoid disintegration in the trade union rank and file, particularly the recent happenings in the All Nigeria Trade Union Federation. I am not happy, and I have long expected that these officers would have done their best to carry the complaints of the different trade union movements to the Minister of Labour who I also expected to make a statement warning the country and the workers themselves of the impending danger.

Now, I feel that the activities of the A.N.T.U.F., usually called that way, in 1956 were very much appalling. They were below expectations to a great extent, and I am appealing to the workers to choose their friends from their enemies, not minding who is being considered, the secretary or president or any other person like that.

I want them also to choose between the welfare of the workers and politics. I want them to choose between unitary labour trade union movement and unitary government for Nigeria. If they choose the welfare of the workers, let them speak for the welfare of the workers and leave politics alone. I want them to choose between working for the welfare of the workers in Nigeria and the representation at the London Conference. Now, I feel that there are a lot of politicians and hon. Members who could adequately speak for Nigeria abroad, and the workers could make their feelings felt on certain platforms. But they should leave London alone and sit down here to work for the uplift of this country and for the welfare of the masses they represent and lead.

Now, Sir, I am using this occasion to bring forward to this House the recent happenings and publications in papers about communist infiltration in the rank and file of the A.N.T.U.F. Several times the Leaders have been warned about going the communist way. I want the Minister of Labour to make a statement on that.

In December last year, the Minister for Internal Affairs spoke to the Leaders and he made a statement but I expected a statement from the substantive holder of that Ministerial post, and I have never seen that statement and I will use this occasion to warn the workers in rank and file, to see that there is no discrimination. I notice there are leaders who prefer vain glory: who prefer pomp and power: people who are over-greedy; leaders who want to foil the achievement of years of experience.

Now there is need for a strong trade union movement, particularly the type that is federal in structure and outlook, to suit different political developments in the country. I would not like the Trade Union movement to be split into kitchen trade union movements, which would not show the national structure of this country. However, there is a type of sympathy in my mind when I read recent accusations in the papers, where several trade union leaders have resigned from their membership of the executive of the Trade Union Federation and they told the world, and Nigeria in particular, the reason why they resigned. One of the reasons is communist tendencies. I got the information from the leaders of the trade union movements, and I know that both Nigerians and the Government hate the idea of communism, so it will do nobody in Nigeria any good at all.

Sir, all means available should be used to do away with that communistic idea. Now if the leaders are going to go this way, I want them to stage a come-back, because they will not receive any support from any section among their workers and they will find the workers are going to agitate to make this point available to us. I am appealing to the Minister to make a statement to protect the lowest strata of the working class to see that the trade union leaders pay attention, particularly to welfare, wages, salaries, housing conditions and other things that are material to the welfare of these workers and leave politics alone. Sometimes they are accused of being bought over by certain political parties. That idea will not do any Trade Union Leader any good.

I advise the Minister of Labour and Welfare to show this House that he has been aware of these developments and that the Government has taken a step, or is willing to take a step, to

see that by this impending disintegration of national affairs the Trade Union movement is not held to ransom. I do not want to waste the time of this House talking about what everybody in this House has been well acquainted with in the past. We have all read papers and listened to lectures where this point has been clearly set out.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I think we have got a long way to go and there are other Heads we want to discuss. I would like the Minister to answer one question: Is it a fact that some of the trade union leaders here are receiving subsidies from countries behind the Iron Curtain? Is it also a fact that some of them are receiving subsidy from America and that one of them recently got a car, as a gift, from America, and if so, how far does this affect the solidarity of the trade union movement in Nigeria?

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman Sir, I do not want to be placed in a difficult position this morning by the Leader of the Opposition, but it seems to me that I may very well ask for notice of some of the questions which he has asked me this morning. However, Sir, as I promised earlier on I would like to seek the opportunity to answer the point of trade union movement in Nigeria made by the Leader of the Opposition and now amplified by Mr Mbakogu. Not even the best friends of the trade unions in this country would maintain that all is well with the movement.

If we look back over the years it has had a chequered history, notwithstanding the fine efforts made by some individuals within the movement to set high standards, and to mould the movement together into one united organisation with material resources, premises and union support, without which no central trade union organisation can usefully survive.

Three previous attempts at establishing a central trade union organisation have failed. The Trades Union Congress survived for seven years from 1942 to 1949. In that year the short lived Nigerian National Federation of Labour was set up. In the following year, 1950, the Nigerian Labour Congress was established following an agreement between the T.U.C. and N.N.F.L. to resolve their

differences. Within two years it had collapsed largely because of differences over its affiliation to the World Federation of Trade Unions. In 1953 came the fourth attempt—the foundation of the All Nigeria Trade Union Federation. Already in four short years the signs of collapse are evident.

We must ask ourselves whether the trade union movement is yet strong enough to sustain a central federation. I believe that it is, and that only through a democratically led and well directed central organisation can the trade union movement take its proper place in the life of the country. But there are certain preconditions which I feel must be observed.

Unions should not become tools in the hands of politicians. They must not be organised on a tribal basis, but should draw their membership from any worker in their field of operations whatever his regional or tribal origin.

The constitution of the central organisation should provide for voting powers to vary with the membership of the individual unions. (At present ANTUF gives the same voting powers to the smallest and most recently organised trade union as to the largest and longest established.)

Personalities must be prepared to submerge their personal interests and ambitions where this will assist in maintaining trade union unity.

The multiplicity of small unions must somehow be reduced by amalgamation or federation.

The members of the unions must be satisfied that their contributions are being used for trade union purposes.

Union officials and members must be educated to a better understanding of their responsibilities as well as their rights.

The movement must draw more of its strength from unions in the Regions and rely less on Lagos support.

Employers must assist by showing a recognition of the importance of trade unionism and giving a fair hearing to workers opinions.

This is a long catalogue, but the trade union movement cannot take its proper place until these things are attended to. The work of trade

union officers has been valuable in extending a knowledge of first principles to members and junior officials of unions, but the real cure for the present troubles must come from within the trade union movement itself. ANTUF has lost the support of all but a small number of the largest unions in the country and there are few signs of any reconciliation. Indeed, the General Secretary of ANTUF declared at a public meeting recently that the organisation had got rid of a lot of deadweight and had been helped rather than hindered by the departure of so many leading trade union figures and important unions. I find this a remarkable statement; certainly it does not seem designed to heal the existing breach. I would advocate fewer statements of this kind and a real effort to find some compromise which will recreate the unity of the movement. There are too many irresponsible threats and accusations these days which have done great damage to the good name of trade unionism. It would be better if less were to be said in public. Otherwise the pattern of the past will repeat itself and another organisation will rise to succeed ANTUF. But how long will that in turn last?

The present trade union leaders in this country have a great responsibility. On them depends whether the trade union movement can grow to a status comparable to the T.U.C. in the United Kingdom or whether the movement will continue in the weak, ineffective and unco-ordinated state in which we find it at the present time.

*Question, That sub-head 1 be reduced by £5 put and negatived.*

*Original Question again proposed.*

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama** (Central Zaria): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head for Labour, I would like first of all to join previous speakers in congratulating the hon. the Minister of Labour and Welfare and also the Labour Department for the fine work they have done for the workers of this country. We know that the Minister of Labour and the Labour Department have been paying such attention to the Nigerian workers on the Spanish island of Fernando Po and Gabon. I would like to remind the Minister and the Labour Department that there are many other Nigerians in many other countries of the world who are working there.

In my humble opinion, Mr Chairman, Sir, it is high time for the Labour Department to take real interest in the welfare of every Nigerian worker wherever he is. It is a well known fact, Mr Chairman, that all the countries of the world are always in very close touch with the countries where their own nationals reside and work, with a view to getting for those workers the best conditions of service possible. Nigeria, Sir, is marching rapidly towards self-government. We cannot afford to forget the interests of our fellow Nigerians simply because they happen to reside and work in other countries. We want to know what the Minister and the Labour Department are doing in connection with all the other Nigerian workers who live and work in other countries.

Mr Chairman, I support.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (Abuja):** Mr Chairman, Sir, in support of this Bill, I am to bring it to the notice of the Minister of Labour that I want him to see that we in the rural areas, Sir, are now begging him to see that those inspectors are having co-operation with the Native Authorities in the country for the catering of the welfare of our people. They are medically left behind and we want the Minister to see that the Inspectors of Mines and other working companies see that all our people are catered for, for the good health and other amenities of labour.

With that, I support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 41—CO-OPERATIVES

£9,150 for Head 41—Co-operatives—agreed to.

#### HEAD 42—SOCIAL WELFARE

*Question proposed, That £62,770 for Head 42—Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East):** Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the good parts of the Minister of Labour which seems to have been forgotten is his keen interest in Boys' and Girls' organisations in Lagos and therefore I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the management of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs in Lagos, to persuade him to get the Government to give some sort of subvention to these organisations. I know Government has gone a long way by establishing the whole Department of Social Welfare which looks after the interests of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs in Lagos, but it is equally desirable that Government

should go further by making some annual grant in favour of these Clubs.

A lot of things owned by these Boys' and Girls' Clubs have been obtained by voluntary subscriptions by these young boys and girls and largely too from donations from members of the public. Quite recently, the hon. the Minister had the occasion to open a large building to house the headquarters of these Clubs on the Mainland and it goes a long way that this headquarters was built with the money of the private individual. A lot of the decorations and furniture in the premises were all supplied by members of the public. So I am asking the hon. Minister to help us to persuade the Government to give some annual grant to those organisations so that some of their taxing themselves.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 43—MINISTRY OF LAND, MINES AND POWER

*Question proposed, That £25,990 for Head 43—Ministry of Land, Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr F. E. Offor (Okigwi):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 43 be reduced by £10. In doing so, Sir, I bear in mind that a motion was withdrawn in this House a few days ago which sought that the whole Divisional headquarters within the Federation should get light. One thinks the Minister of Mines and Power could assume that as in those olden days when God created the world and said "Let there be light," the Minister of Mines and Power could use his power in saying "Let there be light" to those Divisions that deserve it.

Moreover, Sir, my question during the last Budget Session asking the Minister of Mines and Power whether he thought it fit to see that those Divisions where electricity plants are already installed could be supplied with light there, and the reply was negative. I still insist, however, that the Minister should use his good offices to confer with the E.C.N. to see that nearby places, such as Okigwi, Awgu, Orlu and so on, should be served with power from the Oji River Power Station.

*Amendment proposed; Head 43 to be reduced by £10.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** I would like to invite the Minister's attention to what I consider an unfortunate incident which happened some time last year. It will be remembered that the hon. Members in this House were unanimous in appealing to the Minister to review the system of land allocation in Ikoyi, and the Minister assured us that something would be done. In fairness to him he even gave us something in the nature of a ratio. He assured us that Africans would no longer be barred from obtaining land at Ikoyi.

Now, a Committee was set up at an administrative level to apportion land in Ikoyi amongst those who applied for it, and the Committee which was set up consisted of six expatriate officers and one and a half Nigerians—well I am sure the onus lies on me to explain why I say one and a half Nigerians. Among the members of the Committee was a retired Civil Servant who was absolutely independent, free, unfettered—he could, in fact, be regarded as a whole man—but then there was also a Federal Land Officer who as a Civil Servant had to serve on this Committee with his own Master—well, was he a full member? They were to apportion four plots, but when the Report came out, it was found that three of the four plots should be apportioned to non-Nigerians, at least to "non-Nigerian interests" (in inverted commas), leaving how many plots?

**Several hon. Members:** One.

**Chief Akintola:** I would like the Minister to look into this and put a stop to it. The composition of the Committee itself was bad enough, and I feel that if there is to be another Committee to apportion plots in Ikoyi, there should be on that Committee a number of responsible and independent citizens of this country. I would even go so far as to say that members could be drawn from the Floor of this House to serve. The matter is very important and I would like the Minister to pay particular attention to it, and ensure that a recurrence of this state of affairs does not happen in future.

I hope the Minister will keep on increasing—well, he is having a vigorous attack made upon him and his domain, which is land: he is not Minister for the Atlantic Ocean but for *terra firma*—solid ground. But the Atlantic Ocean is vigorously attacking Victoria Beach, and

every day part of his dominion is being swept away into the sea, and he has done nothing about it. We gave him land to keep in trust and we would like him to safeguard it, and not to keep his eyes upon it when the whole thing is washed away.

We would like a positive step to be taken to arrest the encroachment being made on Victoria Beach by the sea. We have said it here times without number, and will continue to say it, until perhaps the Minister becomes a little more fortunate than King Canute; we would like him to assume sufficient power to tell the Atlantic Ocean to stop, and it will stop. If he is not in a position to do it now, we would like him to consult others and we are prepared to vote more money so that he might be powerful enough to arrest this unfortunate encroachment on his domain.

I should also like to issue a warning about something which, although it has not actually happened yet, in my opinion will soon come to pass unless this House makes its wishes known. A lot of land on Victoria Beach has been reclaimed. I am not sure when the Government will consider it firm enough for use, but I appeal to the Minister to see to it that that land is not apportioned in such a way that Africans will be debarred from it. It has been reclaimed with our money, in our interests. We do not want to drive away our foreign friends, we want them to have a share, but it must not be a share that will preclude us completely. I have heard it said that a big hotel will be built there, and about £1 million or £2 million spent on it, but whatever will accommodate this land, it has been reclaimed for the benefit of Nigerians. I insist, Sir, that the Minister should make an announcement as early as possible in this House as to what particular use this land is going to be put.

The last point I would like to make is in connection with the staff of the Lands Department. I notice that the Chief Federal Lands Officer—well it goes without saying, he is an expatriate: the Deputy is an expatriate. I don't know what qualifications are required in this particular case, but I feel that little knowledge must be one of the essential qualifications. If so they have got people with the necessary knowledge *in quantum* in this country. The time has come for the Minister to prevail upon the Public Service Commission to see that senior super-scale posts in this Department are open to Nigerians.



The Minister is also in charge of mines. I know that exploration is going on in this field, in different parts of the country, but I cannot help feeling that the exploration is not extensive enough. Members here come from different areas, and it is probable that these areas have untapped mineral resources, but it seems that this possibility has not been enquired into. There has never been any real investigation, at least to the knowledge of the hon. Members in this House. Do they know what worth their soil is? What has been done in the different constituencies to find out if there are any mineral resources there? Is anything known about them? There should be a record kept somewhere that we could refer to about this matter, so that we can know whether any explorations are being carried out or not.

I do not want to mention places in particular. But I happen to know that exploration in mining has been of a restricted nature. It may be that one way of meeting the situation is for the Minister to ask for more votes so that his own branch dealing with mineral exploration or that Department known as Geological Survey would be strengthened so that they would be able to give us at least some indication of what wealth lies buried in our soil.

The last charge in the Minister's care is Power—that is Electricity. I need not repeat but those who are more competent than myself have said it time without number, especially my good Friend on my left, the Minister plenipotentiary for rural areas, has brought forward the case for the rural areas. We would insist that the Minister should get in touch with the Electricity Corporation so that electricity would be extended to the rural as well as urban areas without much delay. We cannot keep on talking about industrialisation here *ad infinitum* without creating conditions under which true industrialisation can thrive.

Without power there can never be proper industrialisation in this country. And in dealing with electricity, there can never be Minister of Power without electricity. That he may continue to merit his name, I would like to see the North, the East, the West, Urban areas, rural areas, villages and towns, supplied with plenty of power and we shall continue to pray: more grease to the elbow of the Minister of Power.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**M. Zubairu Bamu (Nassarawa):** Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head I have to say that I am sorry that the Minister of Land, Mines and Power has not toured my Division during his last tour, as it was announced by the N.B.S. that the Minister was to tour Lafia and Keffi. That is a large mining area, requiring especially power supplies.

I wonder whether the Minister knows that there are six electric generators which have been lying in the P.W.D. yard at Keffi since 1954? In 1956 an electrical engineer came and planned the area; since then nothing has been done.

I want the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to show his power in installing electricity in Keffi, to serve the Government College, the Teacher Training Centre, hospital and the Town.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I observe that the Regional Marketing Boards reimburse Native Administrations for maintaining roads used for the evacuation of cotton, groundnuts and so on. Sir, I ask the Federal Government whether it will take similar steps to reimburse Native Administrations which maintain roads to the mining area. Since the inception of mining in this country the Native Administrations have had no share in the proceeds; yet they maintain the roads to those areas. I should like to see some such provision made next year.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, there are a few points I want to make. One is in support of the Leader of the Opposition about Ikoyi lands. The Minister of Land, Mines and Power told us some time ago that he was going to do something about the golf course at Ikoyi: I notice that that golf course is still there. I think he should acquire the whole of that place for building for governmental and other purposes. I do not see the use of that golf course; I do not see the reason why such a huge chunk of land should be reserved for playing golf and the rent paid by the Club there is negligible. I think that land could be better utilised by the Government as building land.

Now, Sir, there is another important point which I want to bring before the House: that is that there is a tendency for business people in Lagos to speculate in building. It has become the habit for some people to put up

buildings and then get the Government to hire these buildings at exorbitant rents, so many years in advance—you see the one by the cemetery in Ikoyi there: I was a member of the Finance Committee when this matter came up; we did not want to approve of that, because it was heard that the rent was extremely high; in fact, it was turned down and, later on, the Minister came on his knees—he wanted somewhere to put the Nigerianisation Officer, and a place for training.

Well, we thought if we did not help him at that stage, it would be said that the Finance Committee was standing in the way of Nigerianisation and that the failure of that policy would be due to the failure of the Finance Committee to approve of the hiring of that building. My point is this: this racket of hiring buildings at exorbitant rents from private owners should stop. It would be very interesting to find out how much the Government is paying for the building in which the Department of Marketing and Exports is housed—and there are other buildings too. Why should not this Government try to acquire land by way of leases from the land owners, particularly in areas which are now undergoing demolition? (*Interruption*). It should be by negotiation. The Government itself can introduce legislation to protect the interests of our people here: we praise the Government for doing that.

But it does not matter what legislation you enact here, the Syrians will always go by night and talk to these people and pay money so that they can acquire interests in these properties on which exorbitant rents are charged. Instead of that happening, the Government should step in; get some of these areas on leasehold and then reserve them for building purposes.

Now, we are always asking the Minister of Land, Mines and Power for power, power, power—but what about the acquisition of land? Does that not belong to that Ministry? What will happen when the House of Representatives for instance, has control of its own affairs? It may want to expand: what will happen? The Ministry of Land, Mines and Power has not even acquired land for its own uses; the Minister has no shelter for himself. And the next will be the Minister of Transport: what will happen? He will have no office; the Minister of Internal Affairs has already had to move to the Kit Kat.

So I am reminding you of your duties. You are living too much on our generosity in this House and I hope the Ministers will play their part and acquire land for themselves and leave our houses for us.

The next point is that the Leader of the Opposition talked about that reclaimed area along Victoria Beach, and I want to beg the Minister not to allow any commercial interests or any other private interest to poke their noses along that area because that should be a show-piece. Some time the Government may want to put up a hotel, or whatever it is—a public building—and ships entering the Port pass right by there; those are the areas you want to see. We would like the Government to reserve that area, no matter what inducements are offered by private interests, because land is becoming extremely scarce in Lagos. And, if the Government gives away land now we shall have no opportunity for building in the future.

I know a case—along the Marina, where the N.B.S. used to be: a little portion. We had to pay about £30,000 in order to get that because a commercial firm was bargaining to get it.

At one time we had to secure that land for £44,000. There was a commercial company offering a fantastic figure. Then we made it a condition that if the owners were not prepared to sell or lease to the Government, then it should be acquired compulsorily, because if we do not acquire the land now, and in future we should want to expand the Post Office, we may have to pay a fabulous amount of money to the private company that may have acquired it before hand. That is why I want to point this matter out.

The next thing I would like the Minister to tell us is this. Have Shell D'Arcy Company found any oil in the Eastern Region in commercial quantity?

I ask this question because at mile 8, opposite the airport on Port Harcourt, Shell D'Arcy has acquired a new area of land where they have built industrial estates and also between mile 9 and 11 there is a large portion of land being cleared by Shell D'Arcy.

Am I to understand the Shell Company is making all these investments without oil having been found in commercial quantity? I have my own ideas about this.

I want to ask the Minister to tell us something of the activities of Shell Company, so that we will know what really is the present position.

There are other points I could raise, but they come under so many other Heads which would involve a lot of time, therefore I would not like to go any further in this case.

**Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Chairman, I do not want to be misunderstood as trying to drive out all aliens from this country, but from my personal experience, I have been prompted to say a word or two in order to emphasise certain points that have been raised by hon. Members in this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we are trying to build an independent Nigeria where life will be abundant for all people of all sections in every part of the country, and in that case it is important therefore that we must try to safeguard the interests of the people in the country and not try to perhaps bring them down.

I am not trying to accuse the Minister because he may not know what is going on. When you give indigenous natives any piece of land anywhere, and this is true throughout the country, it has been the custom of these Syrians and Lebanese to come round and offer these natives large sums of money for their piece of land, and in that way they deprive these people of their land. Unless the Government steps in and prevents these people from doing this we will wake up one day to find that our land belongs to these Syrians and Lebanese. We do not want that. That is what we are trying to point out to the Government that in one way or another these Syrians and Lebanese will try to get this land from the natives.

Will the Government please do something to stop this deprivation of the natives of this country of their God-given inheritance? That is what we are all after.

Mr Chairman, Sir, these are my remarks.

**Chief V. Duro Phillips** (Ijebu West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak briefly on two departments that come within the portfolio of the hon. Minister of Land, Mines and Power.

The first is the Mines Department. Every year we hear of the restrictive attitude of the Mines Department in dealing with applications from Nigerians either for prospecting rights or for mining leases. A lot has been said about this, and this year it is my duty to announce to the honourable Minister that a noticeable change of heart has taken place in the Mines Department. Applications from Nigerians have been dealt with on merit and there has

been no prohibitive attitude in dealing with such applications. People with the necessary material and necessary experience are now allowed to go into the fields either to prospect or to mine but, Sir, there is something that is singularly good about the Mines Department.

We are already committed to a policy of Nigerianisation and we have given mandates to our Ministers to pursue this policy in all earnestness. The Mines Department should be commended as far as pursuing this policy is concerned within the upper structure of the set up of this Department. Africans have been able to go as far as the fifth place on the ladder, that is up to the Post of Senior Inspector of Mines.

I would now speak Sir, on the Geological Survey Department. It appears that the activities of this Department are shrouded in mystery. We know nothing of their activities apart from the fact that Nigerianisation here is a farce. We are not given the opportunity of knowing what is being done. Information floats around that that very valuable and vital mineral has been found in Nigeria. This is Uranium. I venture to ask Mr Chairman through the Honourable Minister, is it true that Uranium is now being mined in Nigeria and if so, since when has this vital mineral been found.

With regard to Nigerianisation Sir, I say that the geological survey has closed its eyes to encouraging Nigerians to assume higher posts in this department. The highest place in which we can find an African is that of what we would call laboratory technologist, that is as far as about the seventeenth position in the ladder in the Estimates. Why Sir, is it impossible for the honourable Minister to ensure that Africans are trained, or Nigerians for that matter, are awarded scholarships to study geology with a view to taking over from the number of expatriates at the top of the department, when we do in fact attain self-government?

**Alhaji Muhammadu Sarkin Burmi Moriki** (East Sokoto): Mr Chairman Sir, the question I would like to propose to the honourable Minister of Land Mines and Power is that in view of the great need of my people in Kaura Namoda Town, he would give his immediate attention to the supplying of this Town with Power.

Sir, I support.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministers to the discontent on the side of the Drawing Section of the Survey Department under his portfolio. Actually Sir, this Section of the Department has in the past been neglected.

I understand they have submitted a memorandum asking for the creation of the post of an Assistant Executive Officer. They have been denied promotion in that Section Sir, and I would first appeal to the Minister to look into this matter and see that something is done about it. These people have complained that the Randell Report recommended that the post of Executive Officer should be created for them and I think the recommendation of the Randell Report has not been put into action by the Department.

Therefore, I am asking the Minister to look into this matter and see that something is done about it.

**Mr L. O. Tobun** (Epe): Mr Chairman, I would like to speak generally on a matter under the portfolio of the Minister of Mines and Power.

The point I would like to make is about electricity. Members of this House have complained bitterly about the supply of electricity to various parts of the Federation of Nigeria, and I remember that the Minister for Mines and Power said that it would not be possible for all sections forming the Federation of Nigeria, to be supplied with electricity. One can understand it. But certain plans should be made, or means should be found, whereby a certain portion of this country should be supplied with electricity.

When I say that, I can see that it is not impossible for the Minister of Mines and Power to formulate a policy whereby a rural, or urban area of the Federation, would be supplied with electricity. In this way, any isolated area in the Federation could be supplied with electricity. The Electricity Corporation does not need to bring to the area high-power electricity, but some certain plant of a reasonable power, which could light just a population of say 50,000 people. When I say this, I say it from experience. I have an expatriate friend—a man who is an expert on electricity. When I was planning to have part of my constituency supplied with electricity, then he told me that there are certain

regulations for the Electricity Corporation, which forbid private electricity companies from operating in Nigeria. If these regulations can be so arranged to allow private enterprise in electricity, they will be able to light nearly every corner of the country, which comprises the Federation, in this way, helping the community of a given population.

A certain standard of plant will be installed in that area to give light to the community—perhaps 20,000 people, or 50,000 people. Then my friend cited Owode, in Abeokuta, as an example. (*Interruption.*) So that for the Minister of Mines and Power to say that it is impossible to light every part of the country with electricity, brings the suggestion to my mind that the Minister of Mines and Power is trying to shirk the responsibility under his portfolio.

The second point is this question that hon. Adeyinka has just mentioned, and that is Survey Department... (*One hon. Member: Have you been briefed?*) Yes, I have been briefed about it. There is a lot of Africans suffering in that Department. No encouragement is given to them. I mean the conditions of service of these people are such that nobody would like to go and work in that office. No provision is made for people who have been working for almost twenty years to rise up to certain standards which can be an encouragement for a new entrant to come in. Here is a man who is fast in drawing, he knows his job, he does not require any other qualification. What he has to do is to draw certain things. If he could do it, then that is the qualification required. So if a man has been able to do all that, by all means let that man be given an opportunity to prove himself. He might do better than that. Because he has not been given an opportunity, he is discouraged, and he will not do anything better, but if he is encouraged to try to work hard, he would see that he does the best thing that the Department requires.

In this case the Drawing Section of that Department has not been encouraged by the Head of that Department, and the Head of the Department I understand, is directly under the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power. He should talk to him that, "here are some people suffering and they are Africans". That does not require the highest qualifications from abroad. Those in the Drawing Section

should be given the chances. What they do there now is that among a strength of staff of some 20, 30 or 40 people one man is just given some increase in salary over the other people, just to manage the Section. That is not what we require. This man has been in that position for some time. He himself is not satisfied because there is no future prospect, and those behind him are not satisfied because they cannot go to that man's post. It is for him alone. If that post is made for people who can just aspire to it, the lowest man will be doing serious work so that he could hold the position which that man holds.

But what is happening in that Department is that one man is just singled out and given that post. For him alone. After some time, because he cannot go further, he is not satisfied. He cannot go further. What would he do? He just puts in anything he can do. But if he knows that there is a certain opportunity before him, he would do better and try to prove himself. But not that alone. People after him who would have worked seriously to aspire so that position would feel that the position was created for this man, and let him carry on. I think on these things the Minister of Land, Mines and Power should think seriously over these things.

Mr Speaker, I wish to speak now generally on the matter under the portfolio of the Minister of Land, Mines and Power. When I say that I realise that Ministers are not created so that they can bear the name of Ministers alone. They are created to work, and not that alone, they are African Ministers, not European. Any European who is in this House by virtue of his office is not a Minister. (Some hon. Members: What about the Chief Secretary? The Chief Secretary is not a Minister.)

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** On a point of order, Sir. I am only protesting on behalf of the Attorney-General. He is A.G., and that means 'Action Group'. (Laughter.)

**Mr Tobun:** I said that in this House we have African Ministers, and they are placed in that position for one reason only, and that reason is to cater for the welfare of the African people of this country. If an African Minister for a certain reason will just go down on his knees to take instructions from an expatriate Permanent Secretary before he gets things done in his Department, or the portfolio under

his charge, he is doing this country very great disservice.

**The Chairman:** The hon. Member's speech is rather wandering from the path of Land, Mines and Power, and I hope that he will leave time for the Minister to reply.

**Mr Tobun:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. When I say things I do so with a certain national motive which I feel I am not responsible for. I would like every Minister here to be conscious of his position and try to be a Minister for the African people of this country.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power (Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I have said a lot about electricity during this Session of the House, and the only thing I can add to that is this. I would reassure the House that I fully appreciate the need and importance of electricity, and all the points raised here, I will say it again, will be very carefully studied. But I would sound a note of warning, and that is to the effect that hon. Members should be aware of the fact that even if it is the intention of the Government to electrify the whole of the country, it has to be a gradual process, and maybe probably the grandson of the Leader of the Opposition is the one who will see it finally executed.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned the question of the alarming situation now taking place at the Victoria Beach, and that is the encroachment of the sea. Well, I would like to say that this does not come within my responsibility. It is the responsibility of my Colleague the Minister of Transport and, speaking on his behalf I can assure the House that very, very soon he will come to my rescue. My responsibility, Sir, is the question of reclamation and for that matter already we have an investigating team carrying out several surveys in order to ascertain the suitability of the area there for building purposes. When this is done, and the report is favourable, and if the Financial Secretary will allow me to dip my hands into his pocket again, I will come to the House for more funds in order to carry out the work.

Members have warned me that no land should be given to aliens in that particular area, and I can assure the House that there is no intention whatsoever to make allocation to anybody until such a time as the whole programme is completed.

The hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku has mentioned the question of golf course. Well, I would like to report to the House, Sir, that an amicable agreement, a gentleman's agreement, has been reached between myself and the trustees of the golf course and they made to me a liberal, a generous gesture by letting me have 45 acres out of their land.

**Chief Akintola:** On a point of explanation, Sir. What is the total acreage?

**Minister of Land, Mines and Power:** Well, I cannot say the total acreage off hand. But I think it is something in the neighbourhood of 180 acres.

**Chief Akintola:** And we have only 45?

**Chief Duro Phillips:** Your own property?

**Minister of Land, Mines and Power:** Yes. It is my own property, it is Government property leased to another organisation. At the present time, Sir, the land belongs to the trustees of the golf course and I would like the House to bear with me that it is a generous

**Chief Akintola:** I am sorry, Sir, I do not want to cut the Minister short, but what rent is paid to the Government?

**Minister of Land, Mines and Power:** I need notice of that question.

Well, that is the situation as it is now, Sir. We have 45 acres out of the total land which is now being held by the golf course trustees.

Another point I would like to speak on in connection with that, Sir, is that the golf course is not only an area to enable people to play golf, a sort of recreation ground: it is also a green belt which will beautify the position of the Federal capital of Lagos.

The hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku mentioned something about government hiring private buildings for its offices. But I think, Sir, the hon. Member himself is quite aware that Government is forced to do it because so many government activities are now expanding, new offices, new Ministries springing up, and you cannot have them on the open ground—I mean accommodation must be found somehow. That is the reason why the Government is forced to lease these houses from private owners, in order that they can accommodate the officers. I can assure the House that a Committee has been set up now to look into the possibility of putting an end to this practice. (Hear, hear.)

The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned the question of allocation of plots at Ikoyi. I would like to refer him to the speech I made in this House last year. "No matter what might be the composition of the Committee, the Committee is only there to carry out the policy already laid down by the Council of Ministers and approved by this House. (Interruption).

I refer you to the speech I made here in this House at length, reporting the whole situation. I said we have 100 plots to be allocated to individuals. Out of these, 70 will go to foreign people and 25 to Nigerians.

**Some hon. Members:** Terrible.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power:** When the matter was brought here last year Members raised no objection.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** think your arithmetic is wrong. Out of 100, 72 foreigners, 25 to Nigerians, that does not make 100.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power:** 25 to Nigerians and 75 to Europeans, that brings the total to 100. I would like to remind Members again that the House ratified these proposals last year.

One hon. Member mentioned the question of promotion prospects in the Survey Department. According to him, up till now, nothing has been done in order to implement what has been recommended by Gorsuch. I shall be referring to the Estimates, in which he will see that 10 in the executive grade have been inserted in the Estimates and when the House approves these Estimates some of the junior staff will be promoted into these grades and further promotion will be open to them.

The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned about the survey of our mineral resources. Sir, I would like the House to know that geological survey is a very important department, small as it is, but it is growing and you can see from the Estimates it is growing from year to year and our country is a very vast country; we cannot expect to have a general survey overnight.

Chief Duro Phillips also mentioned the question of lack of Nigerianisation in that Department. As hon. Members are aware, Sir, this kind of job does not attract Nigerian young men to come forward to take it as a career. I would like hon. Members to see what they can do by persuading our young

men to take up this profession as a career. I can assure you that when suitable candidates come forward, they will be absorbed.

Chief Duro Philips asked me whether uranium is being mined. Well, as far as I know it has not yet been started, but samples have been sent to laboratories in England and the results are still awaited.

An hon. Member also asked me whether the Shell people have now found oil in the East in large quantities. In my speech on the Address from the Throne—if the hon. Member was absent, I would like him to read my speech for all the information he requires.

The House also emphasised the question of alienation of land by aliens. In the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne, he told the House that during this Session of the House a Bill will be introduced to prohibit the alienation of land by aliens. I would like Members to reserve their comments until such time as this Bill is introduced to the House and then they will be able to discuss the Bill and offer their suggestions as much as possible.

**M. Yakubu Wanka, Wazirin Bauchi** (Central Bauchi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to support this Head. The most important thing here is the supply of electricity. The E.C.N., Sir, has been experimenting for some time past but I hope with the Minister of Power and the new Members of the Corporation, the situation will be improved very shortly.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have had a demand from my constituency that Bauchi should be provided with electricity. Bauchi, Sir, is one of the headquarters in the Northern Region and is a headquarters of great importance throughout the region. Sir, various institutions have been built—the Secondary School, the Senior Primary School, the Teachers' Training Centre, the Rural Education Centre, the General Hospital and so on.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the new proposal is very important. The population of the town is growing steadily and the town is becoming more and more important from the commercial point of view.

Sir, I hereby put before the Minister that this humble request should be given fair consideration.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): 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 Head 43 be reduced by £10 put and negatived.*

*Original question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 44—LAND

*Question proposed, That £187,770 for Head 44—Land—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr J. C. Obande** (South East Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move to reduce Sub-Head 9 by £10. This Amendment which refers to Regional Agency Fees, has a vote of £5,000. I would like very much to know the relationship between the Regional Agencies under this Sub-Head and the Minister of Land, Mines and Power. Under this Motion, I have observations to make which I am now putting before this honourable House. I have noticed that in the Region, we have Land Officers working under the Commissioner of Lands. It is gratifying to note that many of these Land Officers are Nigerians. My reason for referring to this particular Sub-Head 9 is to seek advice to reduce corruption which exists in the Department which is under debate.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): On point of information, Sir, the speaker said many of the Land Officers are Africans. In the Estimates there are only two Land Officers. Do you mean many of two? (*Laughter*).

**Mr Obande**: I have learnt from a reliable source, Sir, that some Land Officers in the Region by means of corruption have made it impossible for poor taxpayers to get land for their dwelling-houses: for the reason that the poor taxpayers could not afford to grease their hands. In so doing, it was possible to suspend their applications and in many cases submit those applications that they hope will be beneficial to themselves.

There is a certain instance which I can cite. There was one among these Land Officers in a particular Region who served in many places and has now been transferred to headquarters because of so many reports of corruption made against him. This particular Land Officer has

been promoted and he is probably now acting as Deputy Commissioner of Land, and in his office, to my surprise, his Deputy and his Assistant are all from his own very home town. In view of the fact that in spite of all the reports of corruption made against him he was promoted, I suggest that this particular officer be censured as a warning to others of his calibre, because such a promotion tends to discourage the honest employees.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): 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 Sub-head 9, Head 44—Land—be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

*Original question put and agreed to.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Committee report progress: to sit again on Monday, 18th March.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Mr Speaker, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Works** (Alhaji Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**The Minister of Works** (Alhaji Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make an announcement through you to the hon. Members of this House to the effect that this afternoon at 5 o'clock, there is an exhibition of some of the works of the Federal Public Works Department at the Exhibition Centre at the Marina. Members are invited to a preview of this exhibition and I am sure Members will find it interesting. If they go to the Exhibition Centre before 5 o'clock, there will be officers of my Ministry to conduct them round.

Sir, I also want to announce to Members that there is going to be a film show of some of the interesting works carried out by the Federal Public Works Department at 9 o'clock on Monday in the grounds of this House. Thank you.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes to twelve o'clock until 10 a.m. on Monday, 18th March, 1957.*

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## NIGERIA

Monday, 18th March, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I have to announce that the following Papers already distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

(i) Statement of the Policy Proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria ;

(ii) The 5th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, for the year ended 31st March, 1956.

## QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

*Question—*

\*O.159. **Mr S. S. J. Tarka** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

In view of the great demand for cheap motor cars by families in the lower income groups, if he will secure free trade in respect of cars imported from India, Japan, Western Germany and the United States of America ?

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Industry** (Chief O. Oweh) : Imports from the United States into countries of the Sterling Area must be restricted to essentials because of the Sterling Area's limited resources of dollars. Licences to import from Japan are issued in terms of value, not of specific goods, so there would be nothing to prevent the holders of such licences from importing cars if they wished ; that they have never done so is presumably due to lack of demand. There are no restrictions on the import of cars from Western Germany or India.

*Question—*

\*O.160. **Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

How many people have received loans from the Federal Loans Board and how many of them are ordinarily resident in the Federal Territory of Lagos ?

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Industry :** Five people have received loans from the Federal Loans Board so far. I do not know where they are ordinarily resident, but the enterprises for which the loans were made are being carried on in the Federal territory of Lagos.

*Supplementary to O.160—*

**M. Mormoni Bazza** (North Adamawa Trust Territory) : How many of such loans are given to people outside the Federal Territory of Lagos ?

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary :** None, so far.

*Question—*

\*O.186. **Mr J. I. Izah** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

What industrial projects he proposed to establish in Aboh Division during the period of the Economic Programme of the Government of the Federation, 1955-60 ?

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Industry :** The Federal Government has no present plans to establish industries in the Aboh Division.

*Supplementary to O.186—*

**Mr J. I. Izah** (Aboh) : May I know whether any investigation has been, or is being, made to establish such industries.

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary :** Mr Speaker, I need notice of that question.

*Question—*

\*O.210. **Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would state what proportion of specific Import Licences was issued to African importers *vis-a-vis* European importers in the years 1955 and 1956 and the first quarter of 1957 respectively, and for what average value or quantity ?

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Industry :** The information sought is not all available in Lagos. It is being assembled as quickly as possible, and I will, with permission, see that it is circulated in the Official Report as soon as it is ready.

*Supplementary to O.210—*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West) : Are we to understand from that, Sir, that licences and permits are not issued from Lagos.

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary :** Licences are not issued all from Lagos—they are issued from Lagos, Ibadan, Kano and Port Harcourt.

*Question—*

\*O.187. **Mr J. I. Izah** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

If he is aware of the present dilapidated state of the Warders' quarters in Kwale, and what steps he is taking to remedy the situation ?

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : The Warders' houses at Kwale are not dilapidated ; they are of mud block construction with pan roofs in fair condition. Renovating materials have already been forwarded but it is not proposed to rebuild these until all thatch roofed buildings at other prisons have been replaced.

*Supplementary to O.187—*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West) : Does the hon. Minister know that the Questioner, coming from this side of the House, knows more about Warders than himself ?

*Question—*

\*O.212. **Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

If he will give the number of Nigerians in the senior grades of the staff of the Prisons Department, and the number holding super-scale posts.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** There are 15 Nigerians in the senior grades of the staff of the Prisons Department. There are no Nigerians holding super-scale posts.

*Question—*

\*O.161. **Mr S. S. J. Tarka** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

In view of the growing need for Nigeria to strengthen her ties with other Commonwealth countries, if he will state how soon Government will arrange visits of Nigerian legislators to other Commonwealth parliaments.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey) : I am at present in correspondence with the Chairman of the Federation Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association about this matter.

*Question—*

\*O.162. **Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state the number of Africans holding senior posts in the Nigeria Police Force ?

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** 71, Sir.

*Supplementary to O.162—*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West) : What is the total number of Senior posts in the Police Force ?

*Question—*

\*O.163. **Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

In view of the large number of traders who travel from Shaki, Igbetti and Kishi in Oyo Division to territories outside Nigeria both British and French, if he will consider establishing a small immigration office in Shaki for the issuing of travel certificates, since the nearest immigration office at Ibadan is situated at a long distance from those towns ?

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The hon. Member may, perhaps, be unaware that Travel Certificates are issued at the office of the Nigeria Police at Oyo the Headquarters of the Division in which the places mentioned are situated. There is, therefore, no necessity for applicants to travel to Ibadan as the hon. Member suggests.

The issue of Travel Certificates requires the presence of a superior police officer and in the absence of very strong reasons I would not think that there is justification for decentralising issue further than the headquarters of Divisions but I am investigating, in consultation with the Government of the Western Region, the possibility of the issue by Local Government Offices in certain areas of forms of application and of the authentication by Local Government authorities of the completed forms as is the practice in the Northern Region.

Question—

\*O.164. **M. Nuhu Bamalli** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

How many riot squads of the Nigeria Police Force have been established in the Country; and what is their strength in each Region?

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Sir, all members of the Nigeria Police Force undertake regular baton and riot drill. I understand that the hon. Member is also interested in the arrangements made by Native Authority Police in the Northern Region, but that is a matter outside my competence and one for enquiry in the Northern Region.

Supplementary to O.164—

**Mr S. S. J. Tarka** (Jemgbar) : How many times have these squads been made use of in Kano?

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** In the absence of any period, Sir, I would be unable to reply to that question without notice.

Question—

\*O.165. **M. Nuhu Bamalli** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state how many boys of Northern, Western and Eastern Nigerian extraction respectively have been sent to the United Kingdom on the Army Apprentices Training Scheme?

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Eight boys have been sent to the United Kingdom on the Army Apprentices Training Scheme which started in 1956 and all of these are from the Boys' Company at Zaria. Their origin is as follows :—

Eastern Region .. .. .	7
Western Region .. .. .	1
Northern Region .. .. .	Nil.

Supplementary to O.165—

**M. Nuhu Bamalli :** Why none of Northern origin?

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The reason why none of Northern Nigeria origin was selected is that the boys selected for training have passed competitive examination by the Army Training School in the United Kingdom in conjunction with the War Office.

If he will give the number of Nigerians in the senior and junior grades respectively of the Federal Public Service who receive children's allowance?

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Sir, the former division of the Service into 'Junior' and 'Senior' Grades is no longer recognised under the present structure. In accordance with paragraph 32 (b) of the White Paper entitled "Conclusions of the Government of the Federation on the Report of the Commission on the Public Services of the Government in the Federation of Nigeria, 1954-55", indigenous Officers who attain a minimum basic salary of £624 per annum, no matter what posts they may be holding, are entitled to draw children's (Separate Domicile) Allowance.

It is only possible to give the number of officers who have actually received Children's (Separate Domicile) Allowance over a given period, as claims for it are generally made in arrears and submitted at different times and for varying periods by officers who are eligible for it. 147 Nigerian officers in the Federal Public Service have drawn Children's (Separate Domicile) Allowance during the current financial year. I understand that a larger number of officers are eligible for the allowance.

Question—

\*O.188. **Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware of the disparity between the entitlements of African Warrant Officers and those of British Warrant Officers of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment, in the matter of warrants issued for travelling on leave, and accommodation; and if he will take steps to establish uniform entitlements in these matters.

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Sir, in Nigeria the African Warrant Officer receives in each year of service a free travel warrant for himself. The British Warrant Officer is given that facility only in years in which he does not take leave in the United Kingdom. Neither African nor British Warrant Officers are given free travel warrants for their families for leave taken in Nigeria.

In the United Kingdom there is no disparity in the leave travel facilities of British and African Warrant Officers. Both receive free travel warrants for themselves in the same

class of accommodation and wives and families are entitled to concessionary rail fares by arrangement between the War Office and the British Railway Corporation.

A British Warrant Officer travelling in Nigeria en route to leave in the United Kingdom is given First Class travel warrants for himself, his wife and his children. Travelling on leave in Nigeria, he is given a First Class warrant for himself alone. An African Warrant Officer is given a Second Class Warrant for himself alone.

The conditions of service of all ranks in the Nigerian Military Forces, including the class of leave travel to which they are entitled are now under review with the object of bringing them into line with those of members of the Public Services of comparable rank. So long as the whole cost of the Forces is not borne by Nigeria any changes will require the agreement of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The policy with regard to accommodation is aimed at providing for the seconded British Warrant Officer accommodation of the standard prevailing at other British Army stations throughout the world and at providing for the African Warrant Officer accommodation of the standard provided for officers of comparable standing in the Public Service, e.g., members of the Nigeria Police Force.

Such disparities are inseparable from the differing obligations of the two Governments sharing the responsibility for the Forces and the aim of the Government of the Federation is the complete Nigerianisation of the Forces and the removal of disparities between the conditions of military personnel and those of comparable civil servants.

Question—

\*O.189. **Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware of the discrimination in the price of articles from N.A.A.F.I. stores between the British N.C.O. and the African N.C.O.; and if he will take steps to remedy this?

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** No, Sir. There has been no discrimination in the prices charged in Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes in Nigeria to British and African non-commissioned officers respectively. As I informed the House in Committee of Supply on March 14, when the Defence Head

of Estimates was being considered, these Institutes are to be closed down throughout Nigeria. They have been operating at a loss which could be borne only by funds that would otherwise have accrued to soldiers of the British Army elsewhere, and it is considered that other arrangements can be made for supplying to all troops in Nigeria the goods hitherto sold in the Institutes.

Question—

\*O.190. M. Usmanu Maitambari asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he will state how many European and African pensioners have been re-employed on contract by the Federal Government in 1956, indicating the Regions of posting?

Answer—

The Chief Secretary of the Federation: If, as I assure, the hon. Member's question is concerned only with senior posts, the answer is that 18 Nigerian and seven Expatriate officers in receipt of a pension from the Nigerian Government have been re-employed on contract. One of the seven Expatriate officers is now on leave and will not be returning.

As the particulars of the postings of these officers are rather lengthy, I will, with permission, circulate them in the Official Report.

#### NIGERIAN OFFICERS

Department	Grade	Posting
Administration	1 Assistant Pilgrim Officer	Khartoum
Judicial	3 Temporary Magistrates, Grade I	Lagos
	1 Temporary Magistrate, Grade I	S. Cameroons
	3 Temporary Magistrates, Grade III	Lagos
Inland Waterways	1 Stores Officer	Lagos
	1 Temporary Accountant	Lagos
Posts and Telegraphs	1 Chief Technician	Western Region
	1 Chief Technician	Lagos
	1 Engineer	Eastern Region
Police	1 Assistant Superintendent of Police	Lagos
Public Works	1 Temporary Accountant	Lagos
	1 Stores Officer	Lagos
Treasury	2 Stamp Duty Officers	Lagos

#### EXPATRIATE OFFICERS

Department	Grade	Posting
Education	1 Assistant Adviser on Teacher Training	Western Region
Medical	1 Nursing Sister	S. Cameroons
Public Works	1 Assistant Works Manager	Lagos
Posts and Telegraphs	1 Assistant Chief Mechanical and Electrical Engineer	Lagos
	1 Chief Technician	Lagos
Lands	1 Land Officer	S. Cameroons (on leave not returning)
	1 Deputy Registrar of Titles	Lagos

Supplementary to O.190—

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba): Will the Chief Secretary tell the House what he intends to do with Mr Walker, a pensioner who has been re-employed in the Commissioner's Office in London?

The Chief Secretary of the Federation: Mr Walker, Sir, is engaged on a three-monthly contract. I have no knowledge as I stand here when it will expire, but when it is due to expire it is for the Commissioner to say whether he wishes to retain him.

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): Has the Commissioner the power to retain or dispense with the services of Mr Walker?

The Chief Secretary of the Federation: I am not sure.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, I have a short statement to make by way of explanation.

Members will recall that during the debate on the Estimates for the Chief Secretary's Office, Head 22, reference was made by my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, to a lady who was born in 1890 and took a degree at Leeds University in 1911, who he said was employed in the Chief Secretary's Office. I should like to say that from the details given by my hon. Friend it would seem he is referring to a lady who is in fact employed in the Department of Labour.

She was a former Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories in the United Kingdom who retired last year and came to Nigeria at our request for six months to advise on the administration of the new Factories Ordinance. She is a distinguished lady with the right type of experience of factory legislation and I can assure hon. Members in all sincerity and, speaking for myself, that her services have been most valuable, in particular in regard to the training of young Nigerians to be appointed as Factory Inspectors. She returns to the United Kingdom in May.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### THE APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL

#### (FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY)

#### (House in Committee)

#### HEAD 45—SURVEY

Question proposed, That the sum of £180,000 for Head 45—Survey—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): On the question of Survey Department I believe that Members will remember an assurance given to us about two or three years ago when an expatriate officer was employed in the Survey Department. We thought at the time that the post of Map Production Officer should rightly have been given to a Nigerian, and in the Survey Department it was generally agreed that there were several Nigerians who are competent enough to be offered that post. We were brushed off by the assurance that a new method of map production had been discovered and that the expatriate officer who was coming was the only person who was privy to the esoteric method of producing maps. On that assurance we relented a bit.

What has happened in the meantime? The Map Production Officer is not producing any map; there is no new method of map production other than the same old orthodox method of map production and the Map Production Officer is still there. It is said that he was employed on contract. This contract will soon run to an end. Will the Minister assure us that after this powerful Map Production Officer has completed his term of office an African from the Survey Department will be considered for this important post?

The second point I would like to refer to is in connection with the work of the Chief Draughtsman. In the drawing section of the Survey Department an expatriate officer is also

the Chief Draughtsman. What surprises us is that time without number an experienced African deputised or acted for the Chief Draughtsman and for all these years this African has not been considered fit enough to be the substantive holder of the office of the head of that Department. I would like to know from the Minister why this is the case.

Then you have Chief Draughtsman: that title sounds awe-inspiring. What does the Chief Draughtsman do? He does not draft anything; he is now a salesman, he sells maps. He is in charge of selling maps. If an African in the Survey Department cannot sell maps, good Lord have mercy on us. We employ this man at a very high rate of salary to do a specialised type of job and from my own information (which I am sure is reliable) he does no more than to hawk maps to members. The man actually performing the duties of Chief Draughtsman is a Nigerian. Why is he not offered the substantive appointment? Why do we still call him an Assistant? Why do we ask him times without number to keep on acting for somebody else? The policy of Nigerianisation in the Survey Department leaves very much to be desired and I feel that the Minister should go carefully into this matter and see that the Nigerians in the Department receive adequate encouragement.

We may be told that in some sections there are Africans in the senior posts. I appeal to Members once more not to be lured by the use of the word "senior". After all, there are senior labourers and there are senior nightsoil men. So the word "senior" should deceive nobody at all. Who are these senior people in the Survey Department? They are junior senior staff; the senior at the bottom rung of the ladder. I think the time has come for real responsibility to be given to these people.

I referred a while ago to the office of the Chief Draughtsman which carries a substantial amount of pay on the understanding that draughtsmanship is a specialised job. But what happens to the Africans? African draughtsmen were at one time placed on the same pedestal as surveyors but a few years ago they were more or less severed from the Surveyors and they were treated in a rather sad manner. Among the whole lot of draughtsmen you have, there is only one senior member. All the others range from Chief Clerk downwards. On what plea? We are told that draughtsmanship is not such a difficult job.

Even Middle Class boys can do the drawing. But, if that is the case, why is this expatriate Chief Draftsman treated as an expatriate with a high rate of pay? If draftsmanship is a specialised job, let it be specialised for everybody, irrespective of his colour or creed. Why should there not be senior posts created for these draftsmen?

Draftsmanship is a very difficult job. Those of us who like to look at maps may congratulate the draftsmen because a map can never be produced without draftsmen; a map, in the shape in which we know it, is the responsibility of draftsmen. But what do we do for them? They are not at all encouraged. If you go through the lists of this Department you will observe that you have the Computing Section; you have also the Air-Photo Section, the Litho Section, the Drawing Section and so on. In other sections where you have 10 or 30 members of the staff, you would have about 3 or 4 Senior Service men. In the Drawing Section, where the draftsmen are, you have in all over 60 members of the staff and, out of this 60, only one post—it is not even senior—which looks like a senior post is being created under the present Estimate: only one to over 60 people; all the others must vegetate in the desert below.

Now, this is not fair. There must be a pyramid and the apex of the pyramid must bear some relation to the base: in the Drawing Section it bears no relation whatsoever and the whole thing is out of shape. What hope have all these young men, if about 70 or 80 boys would have to keep on struggling for only one senior post? This is a dangerous bottleneck. And I refer to it as a "senior" post but, in fact, it is not senior at all; it is on Scale C(T) 1, 2 and C(T) 1, 2 is not, strictly speaking, senior at all: it is between the office of the Chief Clerk and that of junior senior staff—it is a demi-senior junior appointment!

I would appeal to the Minister, and to the Ministry, that this particular Drawing Section requires being looked into and that proper and adequate encouragement should be given to those who are working there. Many of them have been in the Department for periods ranging from 10 to 35 years and yet they are still vegetating in the prairie of junior staff. Something ought to be done to encourage them and would appeal to the Minister that the Survey Department has had one notoriety: I do not know whether it has outlived it or not but it has never encouraged Africans. I think the

Minister would do well to organise an open-air service, where we can invite the expatriate Senior Service members of the staff and appeal to some people to sermonise and preach to them and tell them something about equality, fraternity and brotherly love.

If the Minister can give that assurance I will be profoundly grateful; if he refuses to give that assurance, he must never look at any map again.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi):** Mr Chairman, Sir, promotion in the Federal Survey Department is very slow indeed. Surveyors find it very difficult to get promotion and overseas training facilities are not even given to them.

I should have thought that the qualifications that can be obtained in Nigeria would have been sufficient for any surveyor to be promoted into the Senior Service but, in spite of that professional certificate, we find Nigerians still vegetating in the junior ranks.

The main job done in the Survey Department is carried on by Survey Assistants. Under the Ordinance qualified surveyors could send out those not fully qualified to do the fieldwork. These young men rise from Second and First Class Clerks' posts; they carry the whole brunt of the job but promotion in that grade is very limited and before one can rise from Survey Assistant to the post of Surveyor it may take one almost 15-20 years. That in itself is not encouraging.

There are vacancies for Town Planning Officers and the draftsmen could be trained in U.K. for these posts. There are very promising Nigerians who have actually applied for vacancies to be trained as Town Planning Officers—those are First Class Draftsmen and Senior Draftsmen—but, in the main, they find it difficult to obtain recommendation.

I think that the Minister should look into the Survey Department. It is one of the worst in Nigeria, in so far as promotion for Nigerians is concerned. Surveyors work under very trying conditions; they spend at least nine months of the year in the field, doing survey jobs: in spite of that, they get nothing except to be tied down in their present conditions.

I appeal to the House that all sides should support the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition with regard to the position of Surveyors in the Survey Department. Except in the Regions, where we have a Nigerian Director of Survey in the Eastern Region, the

position in the Federal territory is not encouraging at all. I ask the Government to look into it.

**Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central):** I remember on Saturday, Sir, I raised this question of draftsmen in the Drawing Section and to the fact that these people had asked for the creation of the post of an Assistant Executive Officer for the Cartographic Section. But the Minister replied that provision had been made for this in the Estimates.

Well, I have looked through the Estimates and I cannot find that particular section where these things have been inserted. I am, therefore, in a quandary as to what the Minister meant and would ask him if he can kindly point that out to me in the Estimates.

The Leader of the Opposition has put forward the grievances of this Department; they are neglected and I raised the matter on Saturday. There are no training facilities for these men at all; no scholarship programme.

So I am appealing to the Minister that he should look into the affairs of these people because there must be ample opportunities for everybody in this Department.

You cannot produce a map without a draughtsman and by neglecting this section of the Survey Department I do not think that you will be able to produce any concrete maps in this country.

I would therefore strongly appeal to the Minister to go and see into the case of these people. They have submitted a memorandum to the Minister and that memorandum is now being subjected to some sort of ridicule by the Head of the Department. I would like the Minister to look at this memorandum and note the grievances therein and put these grievances right.

Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Mr Chairman Sir, I think the hon. Member who has spoken this morning for the Survey Department has gone into the specific issues, and I humbly submit that he has jumped over the general issues of this Department.

If one looks at the Staff List one will find that there are no Africans in the Upper Strata of the promotion ladder in this Department. None at all, Sir. Although the Randell report suggested that scholarships should be made available to the Staff of the Department in order

to qualify them the more for promotion to responsible posts, nothing whatever has been done, and there is at least no visible sign. I do not think that we should blame the Minister very much for this lack of co-operation as regards Nigerianisation. I think the blame is with the Public Service Commission. Whatever has been the policy of this Government, I believe the Public Service Commission have side-tracked it as far as the Survey Department is concerned.

After the Public Service Commission I would turn the spotlight on the Head of the Department. Speaking for myself and for the honourable Member sitting on my left it is quite clear that the Head of this Department is not at all interested in Nigerianisation. That is quite obvious from the Estimates and I think something should be done in this Survey Department.

Every year we come to this House and pass the vote for the Survey Department. And even this year, Sir, it almost passed unnoticed. I think more attention should be directed towards the Department and something done in respect of the workers in the Survey Department.

Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Mormoni Bazza (North Adamawa Trust Territory):** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Very much has been said about this Nigerianisation, and this is warmly welcomed by nearly all sides of the House, but my appeal to the honourable Members this morning, Mr Chairman, is—I wish this Nigerianisation to be extended to include what is called the Northern Region Northernisation Scheme.

Mr Chairman, whenever we talk of Nigerianisation in this Chamber we feel as if we are not at all included, and this is true.

You will realise from the first of course, Mr Chairman, that we have very few northern men who are in the Senior Posts in the Federal Civil Service. Well in this fact Mr Chairman, much has been said about the Northerners having no qualifications to occupy such posts but still we can be considered. Not all of the posts need high standards of academic knowledge. There are some posts which anybody could fill, and I wish when ever we talk of Nigerianisation we should bear in mind that Northern Nigeria is there and we should give them consideration.



If we want the unity of this country to be established, then consideration should be given to other people to participate in the Civil Service of the country. Now, for instance, 7,000,000 people are there in the North, but here in the Federal Civil Service we have not more than 5 people who are in the Senior posts, and that is what has moved me to make this appeal.

I would therefore, Mr Chairman, once more strongly appeal that whenever such things as senior Nigerianisation posts are to be considered, we should see to it that Northern Nigeria is included. So as to ensure that everybody is appreciated we must give even distribution of such senior offices.

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

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, it seems to me that the Leader of the Opposition has never been able to visit the Survey Department, for if he had visited it he would have found that in the Department now there are new machines which have been installed in order to accelerate the production of maps for the whole country.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): How many machines?

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power**: There are too many and I cannot attempt to enumerate them to the House one by one but I would like to inform the House that if there is any hon. Member who wishes to see them in action he should visit the Survey Department, and I am sure the Director will be only too pleased to take him round. The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned the post of the Chief Draughtsman, I would like to assure the House, Sir, that the Chief Draughtsman is being engaged on contract for one tour. His contract will commence on 1st April, 1957, and when he leaves it is hoped that he will be replaced by a suitable Nigerian.

The Leader of the Opposition also alleged that the duty of the Chief Draughtsman is nothing but selling maps. That statement is not correct; his duty is to supervise all the work in the drawing office.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I cannot support the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition, which was also endorsed by the hon. Mr Mini-Kayode, that the Survey Department is

opposed to Nigerianisation. The Survey Department is as anxious as any Department to accelerate the pace of Nigerianisation. But Nigerianisation in this Department is not as easy as it is in other Departments, because the arduous nature of the work does not attract our young men. A Surveyor has to lead a hard life, wandering in the bush much of the time, and on top of that he is separated from his family.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Nigerianisation is the declared policy of this Government. As the House is fully aware, we are not interfering with the question of the Civil Service, but Nigerianisation is our declared policy. If this House can give its support by persuading our young men to come forward in every field of Government activities, we will see that the Nigerianisation policy is implemented as soon as possible.

**Several hon. Members**: Give them encouragement.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power**: It is for the House to tell us, Mr Chairman, what sort of encouragement is required, because as I know, the reason the men don't want to go to the Survey Department is because they want to go to their offices, riding in motor-cars and on motor-cycles, and they are interested only in the lucrative posts. They don't want to be separated from their families, and so on.

**Mr T. O. S. 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.*

*Question, That £180,000 for Head 45—Survey—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed.*

#### HEAD 46—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

*Question proposed, that £118,190 for Head 46—Geological Survey—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Alhaji Adamu Danguguwa** (North West Central Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have no quarrel with this item.

Sir, there are lots of very valuable mineral deposits scattered all over the country, and it would help a great deal if this Department takes a geological survey of the whole country, with a view to ascertaining what types of mineral deposits lie beneath our soil. There are, for instance, nitre deposits scattered all over the constituency, and it would help a

great deal if that Department carries out a survey there. The Government has accepted, recently, a Motion on the glass industry, and it would be a good idea if one of these glass industries is sited in my Division.

Sir, I support this item, and hope that the Department will respond as suggested.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): On this occasion, following on what the last speaker has said about the mines in this country, I would like to point out to the Ministry that it does seem that all the geological surveys that have already been made, have paid attention to several parts of the country, to the omission of other parts of the country. For example, in some parts of the Western Region when gold has been found, recently the gold fields have been more or less abandoned. It does look as if there are other areas where there are indications of minerals, but there has been no indication of active geological surveys in various parts of the Western Region. What it is I am trying to say, is that our Geological Survey Department should, in an attempt to increase the mineral wealth of this country, intensify their efforts by making geological surveys in every part of this country where minerals can be found.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in this respect, a few weeks ago I understand that a party was going round, helping people to recognise mineral ores; they can then report to the Geological Department. If this is the effort of this Department, it is a very good effort indeed. There are lots of people who do not know what they are. Some time ago, we understand that a man went to build his house, and before he returned home he found that the little mud wall he had built had been pulled down, because he had built gold nuggets into his wall. He did not recognise it when he saw it. That sort of thing can happen, so by proper education of the public they can assist the Geological Department in locating mineral wealth, wherever it might be. But the emphasis must be laid on proper geological surveys in every part of the country.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 47—MINES

*Question proposed, that £94,610 for Head 47—Mines—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Yakubu Wanka, Wazirin Bauchi** (Central Bauchi): I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. Mr Chairman, Sir, at

present all revenue collected by the Mines Department is constitutionally national revenue, but Sir, every human institution could be changed if it were to last. Generally, Sir, Native Authorities are in poor financial positions and I therefore suggest strongly to Government that a certain proportion of that revenue should be paid to those Native Authorities in whose areas the mine deposits exist. I appeal, Sir, to the Government to give consideration to this. I also appeal, Sir, to our Federal representatives who are going to the forthcoming London Conference, to include this in their proposals.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh** (Abakaliki): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Land, Mines and Power, has answered my question on the steps that have been taken to exploit the lead-zinc deposits of Abakaliki Division. In that answer he said, "There has been extensive prospecting by drilling followed by underground development prospecting which has shown ore in commercial quantities. Exploitation awaits the provision of capital estimated at around £1 million for development and equipment of the mine to enable production to commence."

"The Federal Government has agreed to underwrite shares which may be issued up to £350,000, to be made available when the balance of the capital sum has been provided. Further, the Government has, under the Minerals Development (Lead-Zinc) Ordinance of 1952 and by the terms of the Pioneer Industries Ordinance, provided attractive terms for capital investment."

Now, I ask why, up till now, this balance has not been made up, since this particular Government has provided attractive terms. The laterite mines at Abakaliki have been regarded to be at a pioneering stage for about four years, but the lead-zinc deposits at Enyigba are most unfortunate, and work there is not speeded up at all.

Furthermore, I would rather say that the underwriting of only £350,000 shares by the Federal Government is very small. Why can't the Federal Government take £500,000 of these shares if we really want that work to commence? I remember that the Eastern Regional Development Corporation had a share of nearly £500,000 in the cement factory at Nkalagu. If a Corporation like that can take £500,000

shares in an undertaking of that nature, why can't the Federal Government take up to that in the Lead-Zinc Mine? The work is really very, very slow, and if we are really interested in developing our mineral resources why can't we put money which we know that in a short time will bring rich dividends in the future? I appeal to the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to think over this, and if it is possible to let the Federal Government to take more shares than these, to take up to £500,000 shares.

In conclusion, I would request the Government to assist the Lead-Zinc mining company in every way possible, so that the remaining balance of this money could be made up very soon for, after all, it is of no use the lead-zinc mine operators now and then pumping every day one and half million gallons of water, the engine working and pumping underground water which is rising up to flood the mines. This is going on every day and if the work is not going to go on, what is the need of the expense going on every day? That is all I have to say about this.

**M. Muhammadu Bello, Sarkin Paiko (Minna):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure under this Head with a view to making a few remarks.

Mr Chairman, Sir, before the second World War there were so many mining camps in Minna Division. Some of these mines were indeed very successful. When the war broke out these camps were closed for the duration of the war. Since the war was over, nothing, so far, has been heard appertaining to the reopening of these camps. I have the mandate from the people of my constituency to request an assurance from the Minister concerned as to whether these camps will be reopened or not. I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South):** Mr Chairman, Sir, some attempts are being made by the Mines Department to train some of the members of that department overseas. But a few things are wrong. One is that the number of people trained is very small, and the Minister could see to this, that the number is increased. The other thing is that the highest possible training is not encouraged. Some of those people who have been sent overseas have passed the Intermediate Examination before going to the road, but instead of allowing these people to study for a degree they are only allowed to read for a diploma which would not carry them very

far. I would ask the Minister to see that these people that are being sent overseas, since they are able to pass the Intermediate Science Examination before leaving Nigeria, should be allowed to read for a degree so that they may have the best and the highest qualifications, and when they return to the country they will be able to go to the upper segments of that Department. At present what it appears to be is that these people who are being trained get only the diploma and when the time comes for them to move to the upper sections of the Department they will be told that they are not properly qualified and therefore have to stay in the junior section of the senior service. So I am asking the Minister to take note of this.

**M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, we have come to a Head where I feel I should refer to a statement made by the Federal Minister on collective responsibility. I say so intentionally, Sir, because Members from Sokoto have come with a collective appeal to the Government to match with the Government's collective responsibility.

A few days ago, Sir, two Members from Sokoto spoke about the desirability of the Government reopening mining at Zamfara Valley. The other colleague, Sir, appealed to the Government to establish a Welfare Office in Ghana for the thousands of Nigerians from the Northern Region who wander in Ghana in search of labour.

Those two appeals, Sir, are very serious to us and should be given weight by the Government. If the Government, Sir, considers reopening this mining at Zamfara Valley it will help a great deal to absorb these thousands of people from the Northern Region wandering in Ghana in the dry seasons. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr J. S. Darka (Jemgbar, Tiv Division):** Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking in support of this Head I would like to remind the Minister that every time we come here he tells us that there are no Nigerians suitable for certain posts in his own Department.

I would like to state an instance where a Nigerian with suitable qualifications has been refused employment on his own standard because he happens to come from a certain section of the country. That is one of the Dankaro brothers. He was trained in the United Kingdom, and he obtained a qualification up to that of a mining engineer, but when

he came back, just because he did not come from the Far North, he was not employed. And I would like to remind the Minister that this man, just because he comes from Central Nigeria, was rejected, and this is a shame upon the Ministry; and I would like to remind him that he is here for the whole of Nigeria, irrespective of any part of the country. His own people speak when they come here from the North about many things, and yet he forgets that other parts of Nigeria, particularly certain parts of the North, particularly people from Central Nigeria, are being discriminated against in his Department.

I want the Minister to look into these very serious allegations because they are very bad, and give the impression that the Ministry concerned is catering only for the interests of the Far North and other parts of Nigeria.

**Several hon. Members: "No. No."**

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power (Alhaji the Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu):** Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Yakubu Wanka mentioned the question of allocating some of the revenue collected by way of royalties from mines to native authorities in whose area the mines are being operated. In this respect, Sir, I would like to say that the House should be aware that mineral resources are a national asset; and I have said more than once in this House that any taxes collected from this source of revenue will go to the Federal Government and the other part of it, which is royalty, will go to the Regions concerned, to compensate them for the assets destroyed. If any Member wishes to see that part of the royalties collected are shared by the Native Authorities concerned, well I should say that Native Authorities should take the matter up with the Regional Government concerned.

Mr Ikeh has also deplored the delay in the exploitation of the Abakaliki zinc mines. I would like to inform him Sir that I too am not in a happy position about that. It is my wish to see that the exploitation of the Abakaliki mines is brought to fruition. The hon. Member will have read my reply to a question put by him, the facts are clear; the mining company is still unable to raise the necessary capital to make it worth while. The hon. Member also suggested that the Federal Government should put up a contribution of £150,000 more. This is not a matter which should be treated lightly, because all the monies

at our disposal now have already been committed and if we would like to have another £150,000, for the Abakaliki mine it will be very difficult for my honourable Friend and colleague, the Financial Secretary, to find the money.

One hon. Member also mentioned the question of allowing students studying mining engineering overseas to finish their courses and then take a degree course. I would like to assure him Sir that that diploma is of world-wide renown and is recognised by all mining engineers in the world, so there is nothing to stop a student who has a diploma rising up to the rank of Chief Inspector of Mines, so long as he is good.

The last speaker made a certain allegation which has no foundation whatsoever. (*Hear, hear.*) He said that one chap had been refused employment because he happened to come from one particular section of the country, and that the only people who are favoured there are those who come from the far North. I would like to assure the House that there is not a single man in the Senior Service, who has come from the North to the Department, the Department is composed of Easterners and Westerners only. (*Interruption.*) I do not like to waste the time of the House in replying to a statement which has no foundation whatever.

*Question put and agreed to.*

£94,610 for Head 47—Mines—agreed to.

HEAD 48—LEGAL

*Question proposed, That the sum of £34,570 for Head 48—Legal—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move to reduce Head 48 by £10. The Attorney-General, Sir, is a new person in this country and since his arrival he has been doing very useful work, but like his other two colleagues, he will also have to continue his nice duties outside the Cabinet.

A Minister of Justice should be created after the London Conference whose duty shall relate only to Cabinet and Parliamentary business, the Attorney-General himself retaining the responsibility for initiating and discontinuing prosecutions.

The posts of Director and Deputy Director of Public Prosecution should also be created. These are posts for which we have always clamoured. The holders of these posts will,

under the direction of the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, be solely responsible for Public Prosecutions.

Each Ministry should have its own team of Legal Advisers and when they are in doubt on any matter, they will have to consult the Attorney-General. This scheme, if accepted, will modernise our Legal Department and I feel it is a scheme which will receive whole hearted support of all Members at the Constitutional Conference.

The post of Attorney-General will continue to be a post in the Public Service, for at least as long as the present holder continues in office or is transferred earlier to some other country, whichever is applicable, should, therefore, be abolished and all the responsibilities of his office should be assigned to the Director of Public Prosecution.

I observe that the new post of Litigation Clerk is being created. What will be the qualification of a Litigation Clerk? If a Barrister is required to fill the post, the salary is an insult, and no Barrister will apply. If, on the other hand, a non-professional person is required, what useful purpose will he serve in a Department which has from time immemorial been the repository of our laws? May be our new Attorney-General was not responsible for the inclusion of this amphibious post. He will, I am sure, agree that the post be deleted and an extra post of Crown Counsel should be substituted.

The post of Litigation Clerk creates yet another dead end job we should discourage in this House.

Magistrates and Crown Counsels here are on a salary of £888-42-£1,140; £1,188-48-£1,380. The requisite qualification is two years post call experience. In effect, it will take a Magistrate or Crown Counsel twelve years to reach the maximum of £1,380. This is obviously a long period for a professional officer and if the salary structure is not altered, the recruitment of staff will be almost impossible.

I observe that the Judicial Department has embarked on a programme importing West Indian Magistrates. We should be only too happy to receive them in this country if we thought we had need for them. But as there is amply local material, we consider such importation to be a waste of money.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation** (Mr E. Unsworth): The hon. Member is referring to the employment of certain Magistrates who do not come under the legal section, would it not be more appropriate for it to be discussed under the Judicial vote?

**Mr Chairman:** The point should be dropped.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson:** Head 70 is dealing with Judiciary, however, we will leave it. Now if the salary structure of Crown Counsel Sir is revised Sir there will be no room for corruption. There is no officer who is working who is above corruption, even if he is on a very high salary. (*Interruption*). I do not say that any Member of the Legal Department or any of the Officers are corrupt people. If the office of Attorney-General is abolished, likewise of the other two colleagues, the other Officers may be entitled to what is called "official allowance", which has been done both in the East and the Western Regions.

**Mr Speaker, Sir,** I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

*Amendment again proposed.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Well, I only want to support certain points which have been raised. In this particular respect, I would appeal to the hon. the Attorney-General to make maximum use of the material available in this country in the legal field. It is indefensible that in spite of the complaints that lawyers are being over-produced in Nigeria, that we still have cause to import people from abroad for the purpose of rendering legal service to this country. Sometimes it seems to me that we are making an attempt to carry coal to Newcastle or to carry coal to Enugu for that matter. It is absolutely indefensible and I would start, with due deference, with the office of the Attorney-General himself.

I think the time has come for a new policy to be decided upon by the Government of this Federation. There are many senior members of the Bar in this country from all the Regions and I think the time has come, if even you are not prepared yet to abolish the office of the Attorney-General, to consider first the material you have in the country either in the Government or outside it before we import people from abroad to fill even the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation. I am

not suggesting that the present Attorney-General is responsible for his own coming into this country; the policy we embark upon makes it possible for him to come and what I am saying now is not intended to be an attack against him personally or to be an adverse criticism of his competence as a lawyer. As to that, no section of this House has any doubt. He has acquitted himself creditably even within the short time that he has been here with us. But I would refer specifically to the question of our own policy in this regard.

Now, if even we could not find an African who is competent to fill the post of Attorney-General, I know the present Solicitor-General. We all know him very well. I think Mr Brett will pass for a good lawyer anywhere on God's earth and I see no reason why Mr Brett could not have been appointed as the Attorney-General in which case room would have been left for some Africans under him to occupy the post of Solicitor-General. I mention this not because I don't wish our new Attorney-General well, I wish him well and I wish him a long lease of life but when the time shall have come for him to vacate the post, for goodness sake don't bring any other expatriate from abroad. If Mr Brett is still here in the country, that is well and good. If Mr Brett himself goes away, I can mention even on the Government Bench there at least one person who can creditably hold the office of the Solicitor-General, if not that of the Attorney-General.

**An hon. Member:** Chief Kola Balogun.

**Chief S. L. Akintola:** Well, out of modesty our good friend, the Minister of Information does not smile, but I am sure that within him he is a personification of joy at the moment.

So, I believe that this point would be noted and the point I referred to a while ago about importing people from abroad. If I am wrong as far as the system or the procedure is concerned. I hope the hon. the Attorney-General will put me right. The Attorney-General is often consulted even by the Chief Justice of the Federation in bringing people from abroad either to fill the posts in the Legal Department or in the Judicial Department and it is proper that the Attorney-General should be consulted because in employing a person either as a Crown Counsel or as a Magistrate or as a Judge, it will be essential for his legal qualification to be screened and the proper person to

screen it would be the Attorney-General of the Federation. I would appeal to the Attorney-General once more that we do not feel happy that in filling posts involving legal knowledge in this country, people would have to be imported from the West Indies or from Jamaica for that matter. We are not opposing expatriates merely because they are white. We are opposing the policy of bringing people from abroad to fill any posts that we ourselves can fill in this country. I think the Attorney-General would do us a good service if he could get up to assure this House that never, never again will he look overseas to fill any posts in the Legal or the Judicial Department.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode** (Ife): Mr Chairman, there is one point I feel I must stress when dealing with the post of Attorney-General and that is that after the Conference in May, we hope that as in Britain the post shall become a political one. Not only the post of the Attorney-General but also that of the Solicitor-General. If we are following the footsteps of Britain in constitutional matters, I feel that the right step will be to completely not only Nigerianise the post but to make it a political appointment. In that case we can still have our present Attorney-General. He will be a Permanent Secretary or whatever they call a Head of Department, and he will be there to give valuable advice to the person appointed as Solicitor-General or the Attorney-General as the case may be. And I am quite certain it will not be adverse to him being a back room boy. Back room boys are very useful, very powerful on occasions when you need them but certainly you may not need them and then you don't call upon them to give any advice at all.

I remember about a year ago in this House we were making some remarks about this Department and the Attorney-General who was here at the time got up and informed this House that his Department is the only almost completely Nigerianised, when at that same time two expatriate officers were on their way to Nigeria on the "Aureol"—two junior members of the staff. Well, we have seen them in action. I am not putting any blame on these young men but certainly I must put all the blame on the Attorney-General at that time and on the Council of Ministers and on the Public Service Commission for having advertised the post overseas at all, where there are Africans in Nigeria not only qualified but with

better qualifications than the expatriates who were brought here, and not only better qualifications but with better experience and knowledge at the Bar.

Furthermore, I would like to say that the Legal Department is one of the poorest paid Departments of professional men. It is surprising what salaries are offered to gentlemen of the Bar in the Legal Department. I think that drastic changes must be made in the salaries of the whole Department. If we compare the salary of the Attorney-General in the United Kingdom and that of the Prime Minister, you will find that they are on all fours. The Prime Minister gets the same salary as the Attorney-General. Certainly, we should give the same credit to the post in Nigeria. I am not saying that the salary should be increased now but I believe that after the Conference when the post becomes completely political, we should have immediate increase in the salary. You will find, as my hon. friend, Mr Benson, said here this morning, members of the Bar in the Judicial Department are better treated. I think Doctors and Lawyers in the Legal Department come under the same horrible treatment. They receive worse treatment than Foremen of Works in the Public Works Department and I hope that the Council of Ministers shall look very seriously into the issue of salaries and see what can be done in ameliorating the position of our brothers in the Legal Department.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make one or two comments on this Head. I am sure all members of the House welcome the new Attorney-General, who is a member of a learned and honourable profession. Since he came to this House his conduct has been exemplary, and I do not think that there has been any necessity for anybody to attack him.

Now, Sir, I certainly agree with my colleagues who have spoken about the future position of the Attorney-General, but there is a point with which I cannot agree which was mentioned by the hon. and learned Gentleman who spoke last. I do not think it will be right to decide at the London Constitutional Conference that the post of the Attorney-General should be a political one. That post, I think, should remain as a Legal Adviser to the Government, and then when we have our Independence,

well then we can consider the position of whether to make that post a political one or not.

I think at the London Conference we are going to discuss self-Government. We want to remove the Attorney-General from the Council of Ministers, also the Financial Secretary and the Chief Secretary, and in their places instal Ministers—we want a Minister of Finance, and a Minister of Justice. The Attorney-General will become our back-room boy to act as the Legal Adviser to the Government, he will have no axe to grind in the political field, we will tolerate no political interference, and he will not frustrate our national policy. When we have prepared the ground for our Independence between now and 1960... (*Chief Akintola: Are you speaking for the N.C.N.C.?*)... I am speaking as a Member of this House; I am commenting freely on this Head. I notice that some people are now in opposition to the very things that they had previously supported. I would say that there seems to be confusion between the meanings of independence and self-Government. We are going to the Conference in London to discuss self-Government. We have a five year Economic Programme.

**Mr Chairman:** We are not discussing that now, we should confine ourselves to the Attorney-General's Head.

**Mr Wachuku:** I want the Leader of the Opposition to see the difference between independence and self-Government, Sir, and that is why I am making these points. There are some other points I would like to make, but they come directly on the next Head. We welcome the Attorney-General here, and wish him well, but I want to add that the Department under his portfolio will not suffer the same treatment as has been meted out to others in the past. He has heard the cries of this House on Nigerianisation, and I hope that during the tenure of his office, he will be in a position to do a great service to this country and speed up Nigerianisation in the two Departments within his portfolio; they are the Legal Section and the Administrator-General's section.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support this Head.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth):** Mr Chairman, I should just like first to inform the House that the fact that I have changed my seat, and moved nearer to the gallery upon my left, does not mean that I am contemplating abandoning my job at the present time. (*Laughter.*)

Beyond that, Mr Chairman, I do not think that it is necessary for me to say really anything more about the question of the post of Attorney-General. This is a political matter and a matter which will, in due course, be discussed at the Constitutional Conference or at future Constitutional Conferences. I can merely say that, so long as I occupy the post, I shall do my best to serve this country to the very best of my ability. (*Hear, hear.*)

With regard to the question of Nigerianisation, I can perhaps merely draw the attention of the House to the present position. There are at present three Senior Crown Counsel and those are Superscale posts; two of those are filled by Nigerians. The last vacancy occurred after I had arrived in the country and it was filled about two weeks ago by a Nigerian.

So far as the Crown Counsel are concerned, there are at present six Crown Counsel, of whom four are Nigerians, and there is one vacancy; it is my intention to fill that vacancy with a Nigerian. (*Hear, hear.*) The post will be advertised on Thursday next. I, perhaps with some regret—as I always like to see the highest possible pay for my own Department—would say that the advertisement will show no increase in the present emoluments of Crown Counsel. But I would say only this, Mr Chairman: although one wishes to see the highest possible pay for one's own Department, the pay of Crown Counsel is upon Scale A and, in view of certain remarks made by Mr Benson, I should just record that I am completely satisfied that there is no question at all of there being any corruption amongst Crown Counsel. They are my colleagues and I have for them the very, very highest and greatest regard and respect.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** I meant no harm and I never said any Crown Counsel of the Legal Department is corrupt. What I mean is that Crown Counsel should be given a good salary, commensurate with the hard work which they do.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, we are very grateful to the Attorney-General for the very able way in which he has replied to criticisms and made explanation. However, I notice that he has said very little about Legal Draftsmen—maybe because nobody has said anything about it. I find that provision is made for two Legal Draftsmen, both in last year's Estimates and in those for the coming year. But I find in the Staff List, which is up-to-date up to April, that only one post is filled and one is still vacant.

I wonder whether the Attorney-General will consider appointing a Nigerian to fill the post of Legal Draftsman?

**Several hon. Members:** Answer! Answer!

**The Attorney-General of the Federation:** Yes, on a point of explanation, Mr Chairman. There are at present two posts of Legal Draftsmen: one of those is filled and one is at present vacant. That position, Mr Chairman, will be filled by a person who has the necessary qualifications for that post and the qualifications required are a special aptitude for drafting and, normally, some previous experience in a Legal Department. If, of course, there is a Nigerian with those qualifications, he will be considered. But if there is not, it will have to be filled by an expatriate officer.

*Question, That Head 48 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

*Original question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 49—ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL

*Question proposed, That the sum of £38,740 for Head 49—Administrator-General—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a point which is very important to me and, I believe, to other Members of this House: that is the question of filling the post of the Federal Administrator-General and now the request to create a new post of Deputy Federal Administrator-General.

Now, Sir, at the last Budget Session we brought to the Floor of this House, to the predecessor of the present Attorney-General, that, as that post of Federal Administrator-General had become vacant and an African was acting, it was our wish that that African should be made the substantive holder of that post.

Sir, what happened? I will repeat what I have said before in this House about the then Acting Federal Administrator-General. That gentleman, Sir, was a clerk in that Department and the Government of this country sent him on scholarship to England to qualify as a lawyer; he qualified in 1948; he came back, Sir, to that same Department; worked for eight years in that Department and, when the then Administrator-General went away on leave, he was made to act and he acted for 16 months. (*Several hon. Members: 18 months.*) 18 months. Thank you for the correction.

Now, Sir, what have we been hearing in this House in answer to our plea? When we have no qualified person, we are told we have no qualified person. When we have a qualified person we are told we have not got an experienced person. Now, in this particular case, this man had the qualifications and he had the experience.

I do not know, perhaps, Sir, we can better raise this matter elsewhere, but our complaint might well be that it is not the fault of the Attorney-General. I would like to be fair. It may well be that the Commission have something to do with it, but we are not dealing with this aspect.

But where is this country going to now, when we are told that the Council of Ministers cannot interfere with the appointment of Civil Servants? At least when an objective like this occurs the Council of Ministers should be consulted and they should have a say.

Now, the Attorney-General. I do not know whether this new appointment was made before he arrived, that is why I would not be hard on him at all, because this is a thing which had been done before he arrived here, therefore he does not take the blame, but Sir, my information so far—if I am wrong I want to be corrected—is that the successive holder of the position now, I understand is a Solicitor by profession, and he has only visited Nigeria once, where two doctors are fighting in the Courts over their partnership case. That is the Wood and Hummel case.

Now Sir, what qualifications, what experience has the present substantive holder of this post the Administration of Estates in Nigeria? I would say none. Who recruited him, and on what pay? Why should a Nigerian who has been trained, with a Nigerian background come from the lowest rung of the ladder as a

clerk, right up to the top, Sir, why should that man be just relegated to the background?

Now what happened after this terrible frustration of the National Policy, after that act had been committed? What did we notice in the Finance Committee? The Financial Secretary brought us a memorandum. It is not his Department, but somebody handed him the paper. They brought the matter to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee unanimously turned down the creation of this post of Deputy Federal Administrator-General, and served Notice, in fact a date was fixed for 30th January, for further consideration of that paper, and Sir, that Committee, your Committee, the Committee of this House, gave the Financial Secretary to understand that we wanted an explanation from the Council of Ministers why the Acting Administrator-General was not considered, or appointed as the substantive holder of this position.

Then a special meeting was fixed on 30th January for this consideration, and what do we get then? A telegram cancelling this meeting, and the next thing we saw was in the Estimates which have been brought here is that the post was created and has in fact been filled from outside, probably because the Finance Committee was too stubborn or would not carry out this thing. I want to tell you Sir, that that post has been filled, and the African has been put in as Deputy Administrator-General. Now you are being asked to come and approve this item. Now who authorised the spending of public money? In other words what is stated here is not correct. The post has been filled, money has been paid. I want to be challenged on that point. An expatriate has been appointed to that post and has been paid. Where did the Financial Secretary or the Attorney-General get the money with which he paid it? Who provided it? Where did they get the money? I want whoever paid this money to be sur-charged, because it is an affront to this House, a gross affront. We do not want to be unkind to our guests or to people who have come to serve us. But somebody must have advertised this post in the United Kingdom, and we are saying that it is not a post which was meant for him to fill. The people of this country do not want him to get that post. So I am asking if this House will agree that this substantive holder of this post should be found another

job because we have a Nigerian Civil Servant who has the training, the experience, and the qualifications to head this department. This is one opportunity for Nigerianisation that should not be lost Sir. That is why I have tabled this Amendment. There are two Amendments in my name and I speak to two of them at the same time.

I say Sir, that I see no reason for not giving this Nigerian the job in which he was trained. There is no excuse whatsoever, it is a case of gross injustice here, and a deliberate affront to this House. The Head of the department cannot say that he did not receive adequate warning from this House. He had more than adequate warning, and this is what we are up against, when the House has made its mind clear to the Heads of the Departments that we want things to be done and the Heads of Department decide to flout the authority of this House, they are thereby frustrating the national policy. That must stop forthwith, and if our Ministers are not prepared to carry out the national policy, let them resign. They should understand that we are behind them when they carry out their National Policy, and they should not be afraid to resist any attempt to frustrate the national policy. I am not suggesting that they are afraid.

While the present Attorney-General is not to blame because he had not arrived in this country, I would like him to do something because this is going to create a very unpleasant background in that department, and in this House.

It is a case where this House should set up a Committee, and ask the Governor-General, whatever happens, to transfer the present holder of this post to some other place. He has been brought here to enter into a contract. I do not know whether he is a contract officer or not, but if he is a contract officer, another job should be found somewhere; but this Department should leave the position open for a Nigerian to take. Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mallam Baba Danbappa** (North East Central Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, as a member of the last Finance Committee, I think it is right that I should say a few words. I was a member of the Finance Committee last year, and I was one of the members that took the decision to reject the Memorandum

on this Head. In fairness to this House, I will not bore the House with repetition. I agree entirely with what my hon. Friend has said. (*Applause.*)

In support of the argument, with the permission of the Chairman, I would like to read part of the Memorandum here.

The report showed that the Department was deficient in staff at the higher level, and that efficiency was directly impaired as a result. The report also recommended that more experienced staff were required to take charge of the main sections of the Department, and that a system of internal auditing should be introduced. I think, Sir, this is not the right step to remedy the position. The man that was brought in was an inexperienced man, considered with the man who was acting for eighteen months. He had already qualified before the man that was brought in, and he has a wider experience, Mr Chairman. In view of the Nigerianisation of the senior posts here in Nigeria, and what the House has been crying for, in and out, I think this man should be sent away.

**Mr A. Rosiji** (Egba East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that since this House came into being, this seems to be the most serious challenge to the policy of Nigerianisation that has confronted us. The question of the Administrator-General is not a new one in this House. It was discussed last year, and the year before that, and the point that was at issue then was the same point as is now at issue—that the person who was then acting as Administrator-General should be made the substantive holder of that position. That request came from all sides of this House, and in gross contempt—in gross contempt of this House, somebody went and appointed another person, an expatriate, to come and fill this position. Now we are being asked to relegate the person who we asked to fill the substantive position, to relegate him to the background, to a position which is inferior to the one which we asked him to fill. That is what this House is being asked to do.

Well, somebody is calling all of us here fools, otherwise this wouldn't come before us. We are *not* fools. We were saying that all the time, "Make this man fill the substantive position". You went and got somebody else, contrary to our views, to fill the post, and now you ask us to come and approve a lower

position for the person whom we asked to fill the substantive post. That is an insult to this House. Whoever it is, he should not be in the service of this Government. That person whom you have put in the substantive position should go, that is the only thing. It has been suggested that he should go and fill the position of Senior Draughtsman. He should not remain in this country; he should not fill any position here, he should go away. I am not saying it is his fault, it is the fault of the people who brought him. If he suffers, it is their fault. They know what the people of this country want.

It is obvious that the man who has been brought to fill this position is less qualified than the Nigerian. He is a junior person in the profession of law to this Nigerian; he has not got the experience of administration, as has this Nigerian. And he is a Solicitor. I am very proud of the position of barrister; a barrister has an equal office to his, any time, any day. And I have been told that this officer is here only on contract. Why bring him on contract? It is no argument! Why bring him on contract? We do not want him here at all; that is the position. We have a good many lawyers here who can do this job, and there is a person who is qualified to do the job.

Now, I sometimes wonder if our Ministers are not being taken for a ride. This matter came before the Finance Committee. We were very hot about it. I find it difficult to believe that any Minister—any Nigerian Minister—will allow a thing such as this to pass in the Council of Ministers, before it comes to this Finance Committee. I find it difficult to believe. Somebody is taking our Ministers for a ride, and the earlier we stop the better, and we are going to stop it in this House, anyway.

If the Ministers are embarrassed, and can't stand for themselves, we must talk for them, and that is what we are doing here, now. No person should be sent away, we do not want him here. I would like to warn the heads of Departments, and indeed, I think they should have been warned before now, and at this stage, when we are approaching towards self-government, they must be extremely wary in engaging expatriates. They must be particularly careful. Or, is it the intention to fill all the posts with expatriates

before we are in a position to tell whether we want to engage someone, and whether we do not want to engage them? Is it the intention to frustrate our plans? If this is so, we shall stand firm, too. We know what to do, and if you send this man away and put this man back in the position where we want him, then we know that you want to co-operate with us. If you don't do it, we know you do not want to co-operate with us—the people of this country, who pay you your fees, your money, your salaries. We know what to do about it. This is extremely serious, and should be treated so. This is a gross insult to the dignity of this House, and we are not going to stand for it.

**Mr D. E. Okereke** (Owerri): Mr Chairman, I feel obliged at this moment to appeal to the hon. Members of this House, in respect of this matter. This is a matter which is very, very serious indeed. Mr Chairman, prestige is at stake. Constitutional provisions are at stake, and it is left to the Governor-General and the Council of Ministers, whether they should support the prestige, and consider provisions, or perhaps a single Civil Servant. However, Members, you are here to protect the interests of your country. Here is a man who has been brought into the country without your knowledge, and without your consent. *(Interruption)*.

**The Chairman**: Order, order.

**The Chairman**: Order. Order. Mr Okereke.

**Mr Okereke**: And I feel that it is only your duty, and our duty alone, to see that you do not approve that item of expenditure. We cannot let down our Committee, the Finance Committee. That Committee is ours, and if the Committee refuses the appointment of anybody it is up to us as Members of this House to uphold our Committee, and I am appealing to the Governor-General and the Council of Ministers to uphold us, because we put our feet down and say we do not want this man in this country. We are sorry that he is already here, but some job could be found for him somewhere else. But definitely, if all Members will agree with me, and they should agree with me, this should not be approved.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation** (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise at this stage because I feel it would be to the

advantage of the House if I give an explanation on what is taking place as early as possible in the debate which may well go on for some time.

Like the Hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku, I would also refer to the second Motion because I find it is not possible to refer to the first Motion without also making some reference to the second Motion which stands in his name.

With regard to the appointment of the Deputy Administrator-General, which is what we are now discussing, I would first of all like to say that the creation of this post was not due in any way to the fact that an expatriate officer was appointed to the senior post of Administrator-General. *(Cries of "Why, why" from several hon. Members)*. I will explain. The appointment followed certain Audit enquiries, and an investigation that was carried out by an accountant into the running of the Administrator-General's Department, and it is following those recommendations that the Government considered that it was essential, essential, Mr Chairman—that whether or not an expatriate was appointed to the post of Administrator-General it was essential that a post of Deputy Administrator-General should be created.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): On a point of explanation, Sir. If so, why was this expatriate officer not appointed as a deputy?

**The Attorney-General**: I will come to that point in a moment, Mr Chairman, but I do ask hon. Members to bear with me while I deal with the Motion which is at present under discussion, namely, the appointment of the Deputy Administrator-General. I have said that the creation of that post followed recommendations which were made by an accountant who enquired into the affairs of the Administrator-General's Department, and I repeat, Mr Chairman, that I would go so far as to say that the creation of such a post is essential to the good and efficient working of the Department. The work of the Department has grown in the last few years to an extent which I would venture to suggest some Members do not realise.

Now, not only does the Administrator-General deal with the registration of companies, trade unions, official receiver, etc. . . . *(interruption)*. I am only dealing with the first point, that a Deputy Administrator-General was, in my view, essential, but if you do not feel it essential, I do submit to the House that such an

appointment is in the interests of the smooth and efficient working of the Department.

If we have agreed that, Mr Chairman, I would like then to leave the first Motion and I can pass on to the second point, namely, the question of the appointment of an expatriate officer to the post of Administrator-General. Now, I would like to pass. . . . *(interruption)*. . . .

**The Chairman**: It is quite obvious that the debate has been covering more than Item 2, sub-head 1. It seems to me at present that we shall not have to repeat the debate, and I wonder therefore, probably the second amendment will not be moved.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Chairman, I have no intention of moving the second amendment again.

**The Attorney-General**: Sir, I would like to pass on now to the second Motion. I think it is desirable that I should first explain, to stress exactly what has been done. The first point that I want to stress—I know it is appreciated by hon. Members who have spoken, but I do want to stress it—and that is that the appointment that has been made is a contract employment. I mention this, Mr Chairman, because it would appear from certain remarks which were made that it is assumed that the appointment of this officer will in effect block the promotion of a Nigerian to the senior post. That, Mr Chairman is, in my view, not so. The officer has been appointed not on pensionable terms which will, if I may use the word, indefinitely hold up a Nigerian. He has been appointed only for a period of time and, as I hope to show, if hon. Members will bear with me for a moment, as I hope to be able to show, Mr Chairman, this appointment on contract terms has been made not with the intention of blocking a Nigerian. . . . *(Interruption)*. . . . not Mr Chairman, with the intention, whatever may be apparent at first sight, not with the intention of doing something contrary to the policy of Nigerianisation, but it has been done, Mr Chairman, . . . *(Interruption)*. . . . I will explain, because it is believed in good faith that this. . . . *(interruption)*. . . .

**The Chairman**: Order, order. The speech has been intolerably interrupted. Perhaps we can hear the case that the Attorney-General puts forward, and then we can carry on the debate after that.

**The Attorney-General**: I was saying, Mr Chairman, that the intention of this appoint-

ent was not to interfere with the policy of Nigerianisation, for reasons that I will explain at a moment, because it was believed that it was the best method of ensuring that the policy of Nigerianisation in this particular Department was effectively and thoroughly carried out. I will explain, Mr Chairman.

There were two reasons why it was considered that it was in the interests of Nigerianisation to appoint for a period of only . . . . . *Interruption and cries of "How long, how long" from several hon. Members.* The contract is for a period of four years. *(Interruptions.)* There were, Mr Chairman, as I was saying, two reasons why it was considered that this appointment was in the interests of Nigerianisation.

The first was this, that there had been a report from a very experienced Accountant, which showed quite clearly that, through no fault of the Nigerian, I would like to make it quite clear, due to no fault of the Nigerian, except possibly that he had not had a wide experience of the running of a Department elsewhere than in Nigeria, but due to no fault of the Nigerian Officer who was holding the position at the time, it was clear that a re-organisation of this particular Department was necessary and still is necessary. There were two things that could have been done, one was to appoint the Nigerian Officer concerned to the re-organisation of the Department, that was the first, but I would submit to the House that that would not have been fair to the Nigerian Officer concerned, it was unfair to the Nigerian Officer concerned and secondly I could say this, *(Interruption.)*

**Mr Chairman:** Order, order. You must listen to the speech.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation:** I was saying, the question of who should carry out this reorganisation was considered and there were only two alternatives, one was the Nigerian Officer who was already in the Department and the other alternative was to bring in, for a period of time, on contract, an expert who had a wide experience of the running, I do not say in Nigeria, but the running of Departments elsewhere, dealing with company law, in order that he could put his services at the disposal of this Government, from a view to a Nigerian being able to take over, not a Department which had been subject to the report of an Auditor and the report of an Accountant, but to ensure that a Nigerian

could take over a Department which was re-organised and in efficient order.

I can only say, Mr Chairman, by putting forward the case, that I do believe, (this, Mr Chairman, is my sincere view) I do believe that it is in the interests of the Nigerian concerned and in the interests of Nigerianisation that this big Department should be re-organised before he is asked to take over the responsibilities of the senior job in the Department.

The second point I want to come to, Mr Chairman, is this, and it is a very important one. That is that this House, I understand, has requested, and repeatedly requested, that a law of Bankruptcy should be introduced into Nigeria. There is nobody in the Department, at the present time, who has or could have, any knowledge at all of Bankruptcy law, because bankruptcy law is not in force in this country. It is, Mr Chairman, in my submission, I can only put forward my submission, that it is in the interests of the Department that, for a period of time, I again repeat those words, that for a period of time, a person who has had experience of the working of bankruptcy law, should be the Head of the Department which is going to introduce that law. Those are the reasons Mr Chairman. I am not going to give way in this respect. The first reason is that a re-organisation of the Department is required, the second one is that a law of bankruptcy is to be introduced and, under those circumstances, it is desirable that, for a period of time, there should be an Officer who has experience elsewhere of those matters.

Mr Chairman, I think I have won the first Motion, we all agreed, and I am hoping very much, before I sit down, I shall be successful in the second Motion. I do not like myself having to compare peoples' qualifications as comparisons are odious, but I do wish to refer to the qualifications of the expatriate Officer who has been appointed. He has, Sir, excellent academic qualifications, he has an honours degree in law, he has also honours in the Solicitors Final, he has taken honours all the way through. What is more important, is the fact that he has had 10 years experience in a firm dealing with these particular subjects. I can say no more, because I have a feeling Mr Chairman that the House has made up its mind on this matter but I do ask the House, especially those who have spoken, to do one thing and that is I ask them to go round to the

Administrator-General's Office to see the new Administrator-General, to see also the Nigerian concerned and seeing them there, to look round the Department to see the difficulties, and I believe, I still believe Mr Chairman, that the views of the House might change. *(Some hon. Members: No, no.)*

So far as the expatriate Officer is concerned, I think it is a pity, and I say this with the greatest respect to the House, that an Officer, who has come out here, with excellent qualifications, not a man looking for a job, he has come because he is interested, with excellent qualifications, who has come here with enthusiasm, enthusiasm Mr Chairman, to try to carry out a certain degree of reorganisation and has also come with enthusiasm because that was discussed with him before he took the appointment, that he has come with enthusiasm to be able to ensure that he hands over this Department in an efficient order, to a Nigerian, and that is what he is working for.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** I must start by expressing my sympathy for our new Attorney-General. He has made himself, voluntarily, accountable for the iniquity of other people. I listened attentively to what my Friend has described as "justification". He made no case at all, I think the case he made up was one of those instances in which a Solicitor might be made to pay the costs personally. If this man who has been brought to this country is an expert in enthusiasm, *(Laughter)* I think the thing to be done was just to create, after all there are so many Departments, a Department of Enthusiasm. I may mention briefly in passing, that due to somebody's error of judgment, this gentleman has been brought here, and we do not want to create the impression in his mind that we do not like him personally. It is not his fault that he is here. In all seriousness, I would therefore suggest that a special section be carved out of the Administrator-General's Department. Call it the Bankruptcy Section, if you like; make him expert in bankruptcy; pay him according to your contract, but for goodness sake let that Nigerian be the Administrator-General. . . . *(Prolonged applause.)*

That may be a way out. After all, with all the enthusiasm in this world, when you buy goods from Kingsway Stores they don't accept enthusiasm in settlement of obligations. . . . *(Laughter)* . . . What he comes here for, apart from other things, is mainly to make

money. Let him receive every penny that is due under that contract but as a bankruptcy expert.

Well, that is because he is here. If he had not been here, I would even suggest that the point raised by the Attorney-General is absolutely uncalled for. He studied bankruptcy law! There are members of the hon. legal profession here. He didn't study from any University different from where we studied. He studied bankruptcy law which is part of the English law and what is the experience in drafting bankruptcy law? I will let some laymen into the secrets of the cult and I think the Attorney-General has invited this. How do you draft laws? You take precedents from English laws and you do a bit of copy work. What else do you do? In drafting your bankruptcy law for Nigeria, he will only adopt the English Bankruptcy Act to the peculiar situation here. Who cannot do that? Isn't that Nigerian capable of doing that? And, in particular, the new man will find it difficult to adapt it to our situation here in Nigeria. Lawyers who have practised here for many years are in a better position to adapt English law to the peculiar situation of our own country.

But I am not disqualifying him on that. The mistake has been made. Let him go and do his work as bankruptcy expert with a lot of enthusiasm. . . . *(Laughter)* . . .

I will appeal to the Minister to convert. This is not brought with a view to its having any reflection on our Government. It does not shake our confidence whatsoever in the Government of the day. . . . *(Cheers)* . . ., but I would like this point to be noted. It is absolutely wrong for anybody to challenge the authority of our Finance Committee. When the House is not in session, the Finance Committee has all the power, the privileges and all the dignity of this hon. House. Therefore, I would appeal to the Minister to confer with the Attorney-General and assure us that you will look into this matter and by that we will understand that you will take this hon. expert in enthusiasm to the place where he belongs and that this Nigerian will be made the substantive holder of this particular post.

I will assure the new man, if he happens to be here personally or by proxy, that he has all our goodwill, that we all like him, that we will continue to respect him and we would like him

respect our own feelings and choose not to make things difficult for himself and prevail upon those who employed him that he will like to go only where Members of this House would like him to serve, and where we want him to serve is either in the Department of Enthusiasm or in the Bankruptcy Section of the Department. . . . (Applause) . . . . .

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, we know very well how the House feels about such matters, of course. Now, approval for creation of new posts is given to the Council of Ministers but not who will fill the posts is not the responsibility of the Council of Ministers or of the Minister. Really, Sir, we know very well how the House feels about these matters. Now, what is the main important question in this? The question, Sir, is an amendment moved to leave out item 2 of sub-head 1 which is the post of the Deputy. Now, the House should be aware, Sir, that the post of the Administrator-General has already been filled and the Deputy should be a Nigerian. If we now leave out that item, it will mean that we are depriving that particular Nigerian of an increase in his emolument of about £690. . . .

**Mr Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): On point of explanation, Sir; I would like to know if the Minister is saying that he had personal knowledge of the filling of this position.

**The Minister of Transport:** Mr Chairman, as I said from the beginning, the Council of Ministers approves the creation of posts and its particular post, Sir, was approved by the Council of Ministers. The filling of it, Sir, is not the responsibility of the Council of Ministers. . . .

**Some hon. Member:** Then sit down; I'll defend it.

**The Minister of Transport:** All that I am going to do, Sir, is to try to point out to the House that by leaving out this item, by taking it out of the Estimates, we are depriving the Nigerian of certain increase in his emoluments. Now, the post of the Administrator-General is already filled. We can't have two Administrators-General in the same post, Sir, and therefore I would say the hon. Members as reasonable men, always will accept that half a loaf is better than none. . . . .

**Some Members:** No, we do not accept.

**The Minister of Transport:** But the House, Sir, should understand that by leaving out this sub-head, it does not mean that this Nigerian is going to fill this post of the Administrator-General because the post of the Administrator-General is already filled. . . . (Interruption) . . . .

**Some hon. Members:** We want him to go away.

**The Chairman:** Order, Order. The Minister of Transport.

**The Minister of Transport:** I want, Sir, the House to see reason in this matter. There is a post of the Administrator-General; the post has been filled by an expatriate officer on contract. . . .

**Some hon. Members:** Remove him.

**The Minister of Transport:** Really, Sir, I know it is agreed by all sides of this House and by people outside that we are not going to break up our Service by dismissing people merely to fill in their places with Nigerians. That is not, Sir, the idea of the House. Already, Sir, I think my hon. friend the Gentleman who is asking the Government to terminate this contract, Sir, is a man I know who is very anxious to see that all contracts agreed to should be honoured. And really, Sir, the House should realise that they are not doing anything good for this particular Nigerian. Their views, their strong feelings which we have noted very much, have been taken fully, Sir, by the Government. I appeal, Sir, to the House that they should allow this item to stand.

**The Chairman:** It is now one o'clock and the sitting is suspended till three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation** (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Sir, during the luncheon suspension my Ministerial Colleagues and I consulted together as to the course which was to be taken by the Government on this Amendment, having regard to all that has been said on various sides of the House. I have been authorised to make a statement on behalf of the Members of the Council of Ministers, and I shall do so in a moment.

First, however, Sir, I should like to offer the House a few words of personal explanation in regard to the criticisms that have been made of

the appointment of Mr Sagoe on a Group 8 salary of £1,620 per annum, from the date on which he ceased to act as Federal Administrator-General. The House is aware that Mr Sagoe's substantive post of Assistant Administrator-General was graded in Scale A, although it was in fact the number two post in the Department. Early in November, the Council of Ministers reviewed a number of posts in the Service which were thought to have been incorrectly dealt with at the time of the Gorsuch regrading, and came to the conclusion that the number two post in the Administrator-General's Department should properly be graded in Group 8, and that the effective date should be the 1st October, 1954, which was the date on which all other Gorsuch regradings took effect.

In reaching this conclusion, the Council of Ministers was not unmindful of the fact that Mr Sagoe had been acting as Head of Department since August 1955, and that reversion to his substantive rank would bring him down to a salary of £930 per annum, although he had, as a result of his acting appointment, been in receipt of emoluments of £2,220 over the previous sixteen to eighteen months.

When the proposal to create a post of Deputy Administrator-General in Group 8 was referred by me on behalf of the Council of Ministers to the Standing Committee on Finance, the members of that Committee unanimously expressed their disapproval of the fact that an expatriate officer should have been substantively appointed as the Head of the Department. Although the Committee appreciated that promotions and appointments are constitutionally the responsibility of His Excellency, the Governor-General, after seeking the advice of the Public Service Commission, the majority of the Committee felt that a protest should nevertheless be registered in the form of a refusal to recommend the creation of a Deputy post to this House without details of the qualifications of the new Administrator-General and of the reasons which had led the Public Service Commission to recommend his appointment. The result of this decision was to leave the Assistant Administrator-General out of pocket to the tune of £690 per annum with effect from the 16th November last.

The position was thus that an individual Civil Servant was going to be pecuniarily penalised because of criticism on the part of

the Standing Committee on Finance, directed to the appointment of another officer, and not directed to any shortcomings on the part of Mr Sagoe himself. In order that the officer concerned should not as a result of this situation be placed in a position where he might be financially embarrassed, I considered it my duty to report the views of the Standing Committee on Finance to His Excellency the Governor-General, and to advise him that since the matter was clearly going to be fully ventilated in this House, when approval was sought for the creation of this post in the draft Estimates that are now being debated, it would be proper in the meantime to appoint Mr Sagoe to the new post and to pay him the Group 8 salary with effect from the date on which he ceased to act as Administrator-General.

I trust that the House will accept my assurance that I took this action not with any desire to flout the authority of the House, but solely in order that a Civil Servant should not be penalised financially as a result of circumstances which were none of his making. -

I turn now, Sir, to the statement which I make on behalf of my Ministerial Colleagues and the Ex-Officio Members of the Council of Ministers. The appointment and promotion of Civil Servants are excluded from the competence of the Council of Ministers as a collective body and from the competence of any Minister or Ex-Officio Member of that Council. These powers reside, by reason of the Constitutional Order in Council, in His Excellency the Governor-General, and the Constitution provides that this is not a matter on which His Excellency is required to consult the Council of Ministers.

The House, Sir, has made its views clear and those views will be immediately communicated to His Excellency. In the meantime a decision will have to be reached on the amendment moved by the hon. Jaja Wachuku. Since, Sir, as I have explained, the technical effect of this amendment being accepted would be to deprive Mr Sagoe of £690 a year without its achieving any other result, the Government does not feel that it can accept the amendment. The Government, therefore, asks the hon. Members not to press the matter with the assurance of my Colleagues and myself that the views of hon. Members will be placed immediately before His Excellency.



Chief I. A. Sodipo (Egba South): Sir, I am very glad to hear what the Financial Secretary has just told us about the arrangement made by the Council of Ministers but as a member of the Finance Committee, the Financial Secretary told us on the day that this arrangement had been made and all my Colleagues and myself, we all associated ourselves with it, and that is what he has just told us now. But to my surprise, on that very day we had a party in the house of the Minister of Social Services which I attended. I saw the Financial Secretary there; I saw the Chief Secretary of the Federation there. But to my surprise the Chief Secretary came to approach me on the matter of what was wrong today in the Standing Committee on Finance. I told him that this is a decision of this Committee and that I am unable to revise it and therefore I am not prepared to discuss the matter. (Interruption).

The Chairman: Order, order. It is quite improper to refer in this House to conversations at private parties or otherwise. Anything of that sort must certainly not be repeated in Debate.

The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey): I have no objection, Sir.

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): If the Standing Order allows.

Chief E. O. Omolodun (Oyo South): Mr Chairman, if Nigeria is lacking in experts in any other branch of knowledge, I am sure not in the legal profession. (Applause). Nigeria has been able to produce eminent lawyers. If anything at all is due to be given to our sons who have been able to acquit themselves creditably well in any branch of knowledge, I think they should not be denied. Taking into consideration what has been said this morning, we see that our expatriate officers are trying one way or the other to relegate our children to the background. Each of us here is responsible to his constituency and, as such, we are mandated to fight for the cause of our nation.

I fail to see why we have to be denied our rights. As the Standing Committee on Finance is empowered to act on behalf of this House, and a serious objection was taken by it against a particular item, there is no reason under heaven why it should be brought to us by the backdoor. We are against it, we are against it very much, and we ask that the gentleman who was brought here should either go back

home or go to that department of enthusiasm: we make no objection, with apologies to the Nigerian to be appointed to that very post. Not a question of deputy but of a substantive holder of the post. He is capable of holding that office.

Mallam S. O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, as a member of the old and the present Finance Committee, I feel that I will be doing myself injustice if I am unable to contribute to this debate.

Now, on that particular day I think the question was so hotly debated and the Financial Secretary was definitely informed that we were not in agreement and asked that the particulars as to the appointment of the man in question should be ventilated to the Finance Committee. To my surprise, the meeting was adjourned on that day and a certain date was fixed for another meeting whereby the details would be given to us. That was on the 30th of January. When everybody had gone home, the next thing we saw was a telegram from the Financial Secretary informing us that the meeting had been cancelled.

Now, really, according to the Financial Secretary saying that the man has so many qualifications, it is so, but what may be meant for another place where the man has come from may be poison for Nigeria. So, all we want is that this particular Department should be fully Nigerianised, and therefore we want our men there. It is not always that the Government is not at fault. The Financial Secretary should have informed this House that he is at fault and therefore the Members of the House would have to pardon him or not. That is the question.

Another thing is that our Financial Secretary told us of the academic qualifications and experience, but I have been thinking that what might have been responsible for that is what they really call confidential report, and if there is any confidential report I think the Members of the Finance Committee were entitled to know it. We do not know what might have been responsible for this one. I therefore associate myself with what hon. Jaja Wachuku has said. (Applause.)

Mr L. P. Ojukwu (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, I would like to add a little to this debate. I am one of the Members of the Standing Committee on Finance.

This morning I listened to the hon. the Attorney-General replying to this debate. I was surprised because I felt he left entirely the subject which we have been discussing and that is whether this hon. House agrees with Government that the creation of a Deputy Administrator-General in that department is essential. I am not quarrelling with who is going to be the Administrator-General. We all agree and if it is within our power I would suggest that the African there should be promoted to that post. But what is before us presently is whether that department needs a Deputy Administrator-General.

If that is the argument we have created the Administrator-General and now they are asking us to create a Deputy. They can pass that one but this House has the right to give a directive to the Council of Ministers to look into the proper grading or proper appointment of the Administrator-General. But I do not think we are within our right to stop the creation of the post. We should create the post and at the same time give direction that a suitable applicant, all things being equal, should be given an opportunity to be the Head of that Department. But presently, what we are called upon to debate this afternoon, is whether it is essential to create a Deputy Director and I say that, in view of the report, it is essential that it should be created and whoever the Civil Service Commission selects should be in that post.

Mr Jaja Wachuku (Abu): Mr Chairman, I have listened to the Financial Secretary's explanation and his statement on behalf of the Council of Ministers. One thing is clear. The Council of Ministers is not responsible for filling the post: we know that; so that our Ministers are not responsible at all. But much as I respect the view of the hon. Mr Ojukwu I want to say that in bringing the amendment in the way I have brought it is the only way to bring this lesson home to the Financial Secretary, the Chief Secretary, the Governor-General and everybody concerned with the appointment: I know that by a substantive motion we can question the right of the Governor to make a certain appointment if the appointment is contrary to the policy of this House.

This is an appropriate one if it becomes necessary. I will not hesitate to bring the motion to this House praying His Excellency to cancel that appointment, and if the House

agrees with me His Excellency, I am sure, is a very very reasonable man, he is there to serve the interest of the country. He will not hesitate on receiving such a decision by the House to cancel such an appointment. I have no doubt in my mind about that. But His Excellency is advised by some people: he never acts alone. He is not a dictator. And the purpose of this motion is to warn those advisers to be advised by us on the policy to be adopted in the recruitment of civil servants.

It is true this motion hits on our own man. The reason why it has hit him now financially is because justice was not done to him. We warned about that. With due deference to our new Attorney-General, his predecessor has been unfair to him; he left him a very bad legacy—indeed no legacy at all. Also I want to say this: when we debate this subject we have no animosity against the gentleman who is appointed in that post. It is not of his own making: he is just an unfortunate guinea-pig. The whole trouble has been caused by those disobedient members of the Civil Service who don't take this House seriously. We want to make it clear whether they are Africans or expatriates there will be no mincing of words in this House. We want Nigerians and when we find people with qualifications and experience they must be given the job. Let them blunder, let them make a mess of the thing. You cannot get this experience by covering them up. When there is an opportunity to put him on the job to gain experience you deny him that opportunity. That is what has happened.

We are told about reorganisation. I will suggest to the Minister when putting our views to His Excellency to inform His Excellency that we insist that our man should be the head of this Department. The contract term always contains a clause under which you can cancel a contract and pay certain money; if you think this gentleman's qualification and experience in reorganisation of the office of the Attorney-General are such that you cannot do without, well, build one section and call it for the time being the Department of Reorganisation. Since he is on contract to reorganise, when he has completed reorganising then the man will be there. But we want the head of that Department to be our own man. The whole point is that our own man should be the head of that Department, not a Deputy.

The question of Deputy. If the Auditor considers that it is necessary to have a deputy, well there were other people in the department who have been working with him. Why will this man not be the Administrator-General and another African becomes a deputy? There is nothing at all wrong with it. I am not going to press a division on this point because the Ministers have given us an assurance that they are going to tell His Excellency what we have said. I want them to tell His Excellency that the House is unanimous on this matter, that all sides of the House agree on this matter. And knowing His Excellency as a very reasonable Governor-General who has the interest of this country at heart, he will be very hesitant in doing anything contrary to the wishes of the people of this country. Sir, I beg to withdraw the amendment.

*Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 50—MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

*Question proposed, That the sum of £40,060 for Head 50—Ministry of Social Services—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr A. Rosiji** (Egba East): Mr Chairman, the Head that we are now considering is that of the Ministry of Social Services. The person for the sake of whom I have tabled this amendment to reduce item (1) sub-head 1 by £10 is the Minister himself who I find is not here.

Now, maybe it is the inexperience of the Minister that has made him absent himself from the House to-day when he knows full well that this particular Head is going to be considered. But I am advised that, unlike what happened in the case of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation, that the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary is here and half a loaf is better than none.

Now, I must say I have been perturbed by the inefficiency with which this particular Minister has been carrying out his duties, as far as the subjects under his portfolio are concerned. I shall refer in particular to the publication which we see in the papers to-day. The Minister of Social Services is responsible for education and medical services within the territory of Lagos and the Cameroons and we know that, of the social services which the people of this Federation require, the medical services range above all the others. If children

are not well they cannot go to school and the medical services—they come first and first of the medical services—the most important people there are doctors.

Now, what worries me is that I still find it difficult to believe that an association of doctors wrote a letter to the Minister, asking for an interview. The Minister gave no reply.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Too bad!

**Mr Rosiji**: They wrote a second letter; they got no reply; they wrote the first reminder; they got no reply; they wrote a second reminder and got no reply to that either. And all they are asking for is an interview with the Minister. They stated in their letter the subjects on which they intended to interview the Minister, in order not to embarrass him at the interview. Well, I think that ordinary courtesy—even if he is a bad Minister—ordinary courtesy requires that he should send an acknowledgement of the receipt of the letters. But even that was not forthcoming from the Minister of Social Services.

Now, it is easy to say that the Minister has been badly advised; it is easy to say that it is the Permanent Secretary who has not done his duty. But was not it the Minister who should see that the Permanent Secretary did his duty? If the Permanent Secretary knows that the Minister will stand no nonsense, he himself will do his duty without being told. But what we find here is that this particular Minister has exposed the Government to ridicule: the type of thing that was published in the paper to-day is an insult to Nigeria: that in a Ministry with all the staff that there is there, there should be no acknowledgement even of letters sent to that Ministry and, more important still, from a body as important as the Association of Medical Practitioners in the Civil Service.

Now, Mr Chairman, if this Minister were here, I should have like to hear his personal explanation in this case. I have information too that these letters were all received by his Ministry: there was no question of the letters going astray.

When we come further down in these Heads we shall discuss, I expect, the plight of the doctors in full. But the subject matters which are scheduled in the letters which were addressed to the Minister were such that any Minister, even if he were suffering from sleeping sickness, would wake up and do something about.

This is a most reprehensible attitude of the Minister and it is for this reason that I am saying that he does not deserve the salary which he earns in this Federation and that it should be reduced.

*Amendment, to reduce Item (1), Sub-head 1 by £10, proposed.*

**M. Muhammadu Bello, Sarkin Paiko** (Minna): Mr Chairman, Sir, with your permission I wish to crave the indulgence of the Members of this House to make some few remarks on this Head of the Estimates (Social Services) now before the House. It is my absolute intention to congratulate the Council of Ministers for sanctioning more provision this year for this very important Head of the Estimates. Obviously, there is a great demand for the services of this Department throughout the country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to bring a certain important matter before this House and I would like the Government and the House to consider the matter seriously. In the North we have two kinds of Muslim local schools: one kind of school is known as Muslim Koran School and the other is known as Ansar-ud-Deen School, created by Muslim Yorubas in the North. Both kinds of school teach the Koran and other holy Mohammadan books.

Mr Chairman, Sir, no grant-in-aid is given to such schools while Christians missionary voluntary agency schools are encouraged by grants-in-aid. There is no reason whatsoever why these schools should not be given grants likewise.

I beg to support the expenditure.

**The Chairman**: That seems to me to be a Regional matter and we must confine ourselves to the Federal side.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services** (Mr D. C. Ugwu): Mr Chairman, first of all I want to reply to the points raised by the hon. Rosiji. It is true, Mr Chairman, that the Association of African Medical Officers wrote to the Ministry, wanting to interview the Minister. But this Association did not state why they wanted to see the Minister; therefore, the Ministry has written back to the Association, telling them to say why they were coming, and we have not had any reply. Immediately we get a letter saying what they want to see the Minister about, we shall deal with it.

Mr Chairman, I think that it would be good for me at this time to say something about the two Departments under this Ministry, so that hon. Members will be in a position to know what they will say again. During the Debate on the Speech from the Throne my Minister had not the opportunity to say anything about these two Departments. I feel that it will also be to the advantage of hon. Members if I say a few words about these two Departments, so that they may know how they should treat them.

Mr Chairman, although our Ministry deals with two subjects, Health and Education, which are both residual under the Constitution, we have taken every opportunity to consult and co-operate with Regional Governments. In these subjects it is necessary to work together for neither Education nor Health are confined by political frontiers. Opportunities for consultation and for working together between the Federal Departments and the Regional Departments occur every day and our relationships have been close and cordial with our opposite Members of the Department.

Nigerian Education and Health have also this year been put on a wider canvas, for last May Nigeria became an Associate Member of the World Health Organisation.

**Mr A. Rosiji** (Egba East): The Parliamentary Secretary is not speaking to my Amendments.

**The Chairman**: To reduce the Minister's salary by £10? The Minister is responsible for the whole range of duties of his Department. The Parliamentary Secretary is defending his Minister against the reduction of £10. (*Laughter*).

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services**: As I said, Sir, last May Nigeria became an Associate Member of the World Health Organisation; the Nigerian delegation to the World Health Assembly at Geneva created a most favourable impression. Our participation in this great international meeting was not only of benefit to our delegates, giving them very useful experience, but also it succeeded in establishing Nigeria more firmly on the international medical scene and bringing her to the notice of countries which had hitherto been but dimly aware of the existence of Nigeria.

Similarly, in November Nigeria became an Associate Member of the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. This will enable our country to participate more fully and with more authority in the future deliberations of this Organisation, and so increase our national prestige. In writing to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, the United Kingdom High Commissioner in India wrote of Nigeria as follows: "I should like to add a special word of praise for the representatives of Associate States. They all made excellent speeches in Plenary Session and valuable contributions to the more detailed Committee work. Their general ability and friendliness were most marked. They have been fine ambassadors of their countries and, for us, most timely evidence of the achievements of British Colonial policy".

In the work before us in both spheres, Education and Health, the Regional Governments will be fully brought into the picture, and as regards the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, it is hoped that the National Commission, which has already been approved in principle by all Governments, will be established during the forthcoming year to review the whole country's needs for external assistance in Education from this United Nations Agency.

To turn to more domestic matters, I should like to say a word first about our institutes of higher education. Early this year, at the request of the Visitor to the University College, a distinguished visitation was sent to Nigeria to review the progress of the University College, Ibadan, and to make recommendations regarding developments during the next five years. The programme of building for the College approved in 1954 is still in progress and is likely to be completed during the forthcoming year. With the rapid increase of persons qualified for admission to the College the most urgent need at present is to increase student accommodation, for at the present rate the student population should at least double during the next five years.

At the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology a similar situation exists. The Capital Programme at first envisaged is in sight of completion, but if we are to provide for student numbers of the order mentioned in the Sessional Paper on Nigerianisation considerably more student accommodation will have to be provided. The other problem confronting the Nigerian College concerns recognition by the

United Kingdom organisations for the professional training being undertaken at the College in such subjects as Engineering, Surveying and Accountancy.

The coming year will be of crucial importance in the development of the University College Hospital at Ibadan. The Hospital building will be fully completed during the next few months and it is hoped that by the end of April about 250 in-patients will be accommodated there. The University of London has agreed to send inspectors in July to determine whether the Hospital has reached a standard which will enable it to be recognised by that University as a hospital at which medical undergraduates can receive clinical instruction for the London M.B. and B.S. degrees. If recognition is secured, the first clinical students will start their work at the Hospital in October and it is hoped that the formal opening ceremony will take place in November.

The Federal Advisory Service on Education has continued throughout the past year to give advice and assistance to Regional Governments and all Governments are now participating in meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education which has met from time to time throughout the year. The Federal Office has also continued in its work of promoting educational publications such as "The Nigerian Teacher" and "The West African Journal of Education".

In Lagos, as Members will know, Free Primary Education was started last January. This is a great and significant advance in educational development and Members will be able to read the full details of the work so far achieved, and also what remains to be done, in a report on this subject which is now being printed, copies of which will be circulated to you later.

Directors of Medical Services from the Regional Governments and from other British West African Territories have recently met in Lagos. In addition to attending the inter-Government meeting, all the Directors were also invited to participate in the recent meeting of the West African Council for Medical Research. This Council, in addition to its work on viruses, is engaged on Tuberculosis Research in the Gold Coast, now Ghana, work on helminthic diseases. (*Interruption*). Anyway those who understand have understood it. I know that as you are not an expert in medical science you cannot understand me.

Well, as I said this has been done in the Cameroons, and is also one of the causes of infant mortality in a typical Yoruba village. Although its financial sources are barely sufficient, the Council is carrying out valuable work of immediate practical value and will, I am sure, receive full support from Members of this House.

The Minister has already given particulars of the new Chest Clinic which is nearing completion in Lagos, when speaking on the Motion on Tuberculosis. In addition, many improvements are being carried out to existing medical units and preliminary work is being done on some of the projects listed in the Economic Programme.

Mr Chairman, I think I have done enough to show that my Ministry's programme of Development is being put into effect as rapidly as our limited resources permit. Rome was not built in a day but in a year we have a good many school buildings to show on the ground and the whole programme is gathering momentum which will, I am confident, carry it forward to completion by the end of the present development period.

Mr S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for catching my eye for the first time since this Session has begun. I realise that the Chairman, being the father of the House, finds it difficult to please all, at one and the same time.

In supporting the expenditure on this Head, Mr Chairman, I wish to pay tribute to the activities and achievements of the Minister of Social Services, in particular the University College Teaching Hospital, one of the principal institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. Many Members of this House visited this institution, the day before the opening. Mr Chairman, anyone who went around all sections of the University College Teaching Hospital would not, on leaving it, escape the feeling that it is as marvellous and wonderful as the human body itself. I share in the sentiments expressed by hon. Members of this House, that the money spent for the building of the Teaching Hospital was money well spent.

It is a matter for happiness that this institution, which aims to produce annually 50 doctors, trained to the full University of London standards, will soon admit students for medical studies. The needs for more doctors

in this country, for medical services, is very great, and it is gratifying that an institution now exists in Nigeria to meet this need.

Mr Chairman, medical facilities are needed in every part of the country, but I do not see how the health of farmers in the neglected areas can be kept up, without the help of medical facilities. Medical facilities, Mr Chairman, are most inadequate in the rural area from which I come, and I am particularly instructed by my people to emphasise the need for provision of a well-equipped hospital at Ughelli to cater for the health of the people of that area.

Mr Chairman, there is now one point, that may be Regional to you, but is Federal to me. Mr Chairman, I have made these remarks about a part of the Federation which I feel is neglected. This is the father of the Federation in which I can bring the complaint.

The next point I want to make, Mr Chairman, is the congestion in the General Hospital Lagos. It is very terrible, Mr Chairman, it is just like Sandgrouse Market if you get there in the morning, and whatever can be done by this Ministry to provide full medical facilities and to relieve the congestion would be very highly appreciated.

The next point again, I want to make, Sir, is about Massey Street Dispensary and Maternity Hospitals. It is so appalling, Mr Chairman, and we have made several complaints in this House. It appears that they are falling on deaf ears. I do not think it is necessary for us to repeat what we know the Ministry will undertake as its own primary duty, and I hope this will be the last warning, if I can use that word, that we come to this House to find that Massey Street Hospital, or the Maternity, is not improved.

Mr Chairman, the next point is the Federal free primary education scheme which has now been put into operation by the Ministry. It is a very fine effort of the Minister, for which the Government is to be congratulated. The scholarship branch of the Ministry of Social Services has not given any indication that it is being fair to all parts of the Federation, in the issue of Federal scholarships. There are many sons of the Urhobo Division, with the requisite educational qualifications. These applicants are worthy of consideration. It is hoped, Mr Chairman, that the energetic Minister will see to this. I beg to support.

Alhaji Umaru Gumel (East Kano): I should like to make a small comment on the medical field. A lot of sentiment has been expressed about this Department and its officials, and with your permission, Sir, I should like to add a few comments. The doctors, nurses and pharmacists are being underpaid, which I suspect to be the reason of so many pharmacists resigning from the Department, and in some cases, too, the public do not appreciate the way they are attended to in the hospitals. This may be true or not, but anyhow, nurses should be given better consideration to encourage them to carry out their duty, with due honesty and perseverance. It is the duty now for the Ministry to take immediate steps to see that conditions and remuneration for nurses, as well as the doctors, be improved. Besides, they are running short of doctors, which is due to unsatisfactory conditions and terms of service. It is essential to make the service conditions more attractive to them.

Under this Department, there are several kinds of specialist, in various sections of the medical field. It is not enough to get a specialist for a particular section, without supplying him with sufficient staff to accelerate the running of such section. I should like to point out that much has been said in this House about the well-known dreadful disease called tuberculosis. A specialist with a team is so employed for investigation of T.B., but T.B. has already been known for donkey years. I don't agree with certain investigation, when the disease is well known. What remains is the necessary drugs to cure it. There are so many cases of T.B. already found with some people, either by X-Ray or by laboratory analysis, but I should suggest that a special unit for T.B. should be prepared, to get the necessary drugs to the patients and suspected cases.

I have to use this opportunity, too, to praise the leprosy specialists in this respect, because within the short term of its existence, much successful work has been done. I should therefore like the hon. the Minister to see that something better is being arranged within a short period for other sections within his portfolios, to follow suit.

I should like, too, to refer to the School of Pharmacy, Yaba. Is the Minister aware that the allowance of £7-10s-0d a month is being

paid to each student, to cover his necessary technical books, feeding, daily transport, and house rent, besides clothing? Well, I should feel ashamed to mention here how one could be expected to live on £7-10s-0d in Lagos. Please, will the hon. Minister take immediate action at his convenience to correct these errors. Mr Chairman, Sir, according to Randell's recommendation, these poor students were recommended to receive £12-10s-0d a month. Then the technical books will cost him from £20 to £30. Mr Minister, please take immediate action to correct these errors.

According to the Randell Report, these poor students were recommended to receive £12-10s as from October 1954, but up till now nothing has been done, and if the pharmacists, and the civil servants have already been paid their due arrears, why not these poor students? Please, Mr Minister, use your power and see that these students are given what is due to them.

Mr Chairman, with your permission I would like to refer to pharmacy students attached to the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology who are lodged and boarded and are being paid £3 a month in addition to £1 per week during holidays. Even nurses in training after six months training are receiving £12 per month. Why not pharmacists?

I should also like to suggest to the Minister that the Medical Department should all be federated because pharmacists in other Regions are complaining of being underpaid in comparison to those under the Federal Department, because it is of no use for two people, having the same qualifications to work in the same room for different rates of pay. I should like the Chief Minister (*Laughter*) to see that immediate action is taken to correct all these errors. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, I rise to support this amendment for a cut in the Minister's salary by £10 and I shall do so for one or two reasons—the way he has handled the introduction of the free primary education scheme in Lagos is one.

In Lagos it is well known that pupils are not admitted to schools until they are six years of age. But with the introduction of this new free primary school education the Minister insists that any boy or girl who is more than five years is not eligible for this scheme. So that rules out more than ten thousand of

our children. If you are one month older than five years, you are not eligible under this scheme; if you are one month below five years, you are not eligible. But the position before the introduction of the scheme is that pupils are not admitted until they are six, so that with the introduction of this scheme the wise thing for the Minister to have done was to fix the limit at six years, but, by not doing so he has left out unconsciously a lot of pupils who should have been enjoying the scheme. So the position in Lagos to-day is there are more pupils outside who are not enjoying this scheme than those who are doing so.

We made representations to the Minister that this has got to be looked into, because the whole scheme is useless unless our pupils are admitted to the schools, and benefit from this free primary education scheme. I may be told that one of the reasons for this is finance. But it is the shortsightedness of the Minister if it is Finance.

A lot of money that would have been available for making provisions for all these our pupils are used in building huge and mighty buildings. You want to see the type of buildings they are putting up, buildings that would compare with King's College. That is not necessary for primary school children. Go around and see the type of buildings that the Minister is putting up. A lot of that money would have been available for making provision for these pupils to have free primary education, but it is squandered on buildings.

It is a mistake, and I am asking the Minister to ensure that he rectifies it in good time because a lot of our pupils who are five years and one month are wandering about without provision being made for them. Nearly all the schools in Lagos territory, I would say even 95 per cent of the schools, are registered under the scheme. So you have only about five per cent of the schools to cater for these other children who are not admitted into the schools under the Scheme. And that leaves room for these schools to be charging exorbitant fees.

I know an instance whereby a primary schoolgirl was asked to pay £2 a quarter because she is not eligible under this free primary education scheme and she is thrust by the Government into these other schools, and they take advantage of that and they are charging heavy fees because they are not receiving grants from the Government.

It is the inefficient manner, the bad planning, the wrong fixing of this five years age limit that has caused all the mess, and representations were made to the Minister asking him to do something about it; it is now more than twelve months and nothing has been done. Most of these young children who do not have the opportunity to go to free schools are attending other schools at great expense to their parents, with the result that this primary education scheme in Lagos almost borders on a curse rather than something beneficial. So I ask the Minister to look seriously into the position.

Now, one other ground on which I am supporting this cut in the Minister's salary is the manner in which he is readily acquiring properties for his free primary education in Lagos. I do not say it is not necessary for him to acquire properties, but he should leave the matter of negotiations between voluntary agencies and house owners to themselves. I know he is entitled under the law to intervene at a certain stage, where the owners of the buildings and the voluntary agencies cannot reach agreement, but the readiness with which the Minister is doing it is too much. He should leave room for these people to negotiate, and assist them to reach agreement. It is when they cannot reach agreement that he should come in, but I have to repeat that the Minister is too ready to use his powers under the law to acquire properties compulsorily. After all, the main purpose of this free primary education scheme is not to deprive us of our holdings, our properties. So I am asking the Minister to be more tardy in using his powers of compulsory acquisition in the way he is doing.

And one other thing. Instead of the Minister just spreading buildings around Lagos, low houses, it would have been wiser of him to build one or two storeys for these primary schools. Just go to some areas, you will find buildings just spread on the ground. We are all complaining of shortage of land, and if you all agree that there is a shortage of land in Lagos, the proper thing to do would be to make the maximum use of what we have and that is to erect small storey buildings rather than one small building. I am asking the Minister to look into these things because if the position continues as it is the so-called free primary education will not be of benefit to the majority

of our people. Unless he looks into it, I would insist that his salary should be reduced by £10.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Chairman, I think the Minister will be congratulated for the introduction of the free primary education scheme for Lagos. Before the introduction of the free primary school education, boys in Lagos were going to school. If the age limit is now five years, what we should do in this House is to appeal to the Minister to give consideration to boys between five and six years during this first period and not to come to this House and begin to condemn the Minister. And we must tell him because this scheme of free primary education in Lagos is eight years, and not six years as in the Western Region.

Further, Sir, the question of buildings. Well, I do not think that my learned Friend would expect the Minister to build skyscrapers for boys of five years going to school in Lagos. These buildings are first-class buildings; they are not like the ramshackles you have in the Western Region. So I think the Minister should be congratulated and, as this is a matter concerning Lagos, and we have spoken on it, I therefore move.

**Mallam Hashime Adaji** (North Igala): Mr Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the Minister and the Ministry for the way they have carried out the Social Services in Nigeria. (Hear, hear) I have not seen anything to criticise save which I have so far noticed in what appeared to me in the speech of Mr Rosiji where he said a letter was written by an Association of Medical Practitioners in Lagos to the Minister concerned, asking for an interview. If it is true that such a letter was written and if it is true, as the Parliamentary Secretary admitted having received that letter, I think the Minister has done a mortal injustice to the people of Lagos, especially at this particular time of smallpox epidemic. Nobody could say whether the Association was just going to suggest something official in the way of stopping the epidemic. (Interruption). The Parliamentary Secretary explained that there was reason to state what they wanted to discuss but I think this is a very wrong point, Sir. (Interruption). Allow me to say what I have to say.

I do not think there is something we are fighting in Nigeria, which we have to direct our attention to first of all, besides the Medical

facilities. I wouldn't blame the Minister for not having accepted the invitation but, at the same time, he must, at present when there is an epidemic in the country, accept advice offered by a Medical Practitioner. He should immediately have answered that particular correspondence and given him the opportunity of an interview. He should have heard it announced over the radio about the smallpox, and so many deaths as a result. I do not think the way in which he accepted the smallpox was good. I oppose, anyway, the reduction. I congratulated the Minister. (Cheers).

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services** (Mr D. C. Ugwu): Mr Chairman, many of the points raised have been adequately replied to by Mr Benson but I want to answer a few points. One of the points I want to touch on is the last point raised by my Friend on the right there, this question of an Association of Doctors. As I said, we have written back to them telling them the accepted procedure but this was done out of courtesy. I want to explain to the hon. Members that even the Chief Medical Adviser, to whom we referred the letter, does not know anything about it. The letter was signed by a Mr E. C. Thompson, who used to be an Editor and who is very well known in this country; there is no Doctor who claims the letter, so that all I have to advise the doctors through the hon. Members is that if there is an Association of African Medical Officers, they should make themselves known, either to the Minister or to the Chief Medical Adviser. (Interruption).

**The Chairman:** If the Parliamentary Secretary does not give way, nobody is entitled to interrupt.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services:** Mr Chairman, I do not want to give way simply because of the interruptions. The point that I am explaining to the hon. Members is that the letter to which they refer comes from somebody who is not a Doctor, who is not a Trade Unionist, so that we do not know anything about it.

The other point I want to refer to is the question of age limit raised by the hon. Mr Dosunmu. In the new draft Bill that will be presented to this House, an Amendment is to be made to the present law to make it possible for such children to be admitted. At present, I want to assure the hon. Members that those who

are just below the age of six are being admitted. There is provision made for them to be admitted.

I think that there is no need to waste time on this question of land acquisition but I just want to remind the hon. Members of what I said last year about the question of compulsory acquisition of land. If we must have social amenities in this country, we must have to sacrifice certain personal interests. If you want free education for the people of Lagos, you must be sure that school buildings are put up for the children, these school buildings will not be put up in the sky. They must be put up somewhere, if the people of Lagos will not be prepared to give the land after all the negotiations have failed, then it becomes the duty of the Government to acquire land compulsorily.

I want also to say that if hon. Members have studied the Economic Programme and the question of the Massey Street Hospital and the hospital here, they would have seen that the congestion there is the concern of the Minister. The Ministry is thinking of it very seriously and if you will look at the Economic Programme, you will see that this Massey Street Hospital will soon be replaced by a new one.

*Question, That the question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Question, That sub-head 1 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

*Question, That the sum of £40,060 for Head 50—Ministry of Social Services—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 51—EDUCATION

*Question proposed, That the sum of £698,160 for Head 51—Education—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr A. Rosiji** (Egba East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I move to reduce sub-head 1 by £10. What I would like to direct the attention of this honourable House to is the fact that the Federal Establishments, Headquarters Establishments, here is "top heavy". The Education Department here is responsible only for the Federal Territory of Lagos and I do not see how they need all these people who are here; in fact I think they have the same staff as the Regional Education Department.

Here we have the Chief Federal Adviser on Education, then there is an Adviser on Technical Education, there is an Adviser on Teacher

Training, there is a Deputy Chief Federal Adviser on Education, there are two Assistant Advisers on Teacher Training, one Education Officer, two Higher Executive Officers, two Executive Officers and so on and so forth. What are they all advising on?

**Some hon. Members:** Education.

**Mr Rosiji:** If we go further we shall see that King's College by itself, if that one needs any further supervision the place should be closed down. There are so many highly placed people in that school—about twenty graduates in that school. Are they also being advised by all these Advisers? And who is advising the Advisers and who is advising the Advisers to the Advisers? I think this is really too much. For a small place like this to have all these people is a waste of money and I am suggesting that the position of the Advisers on Teacher Training should be cut out so that you have the two people who are supposed to be Assistants doing the advising. The place is extremely top heavy. It is a waste of money. The Minister should look into it and make some savings in that particular item.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande** (Egba North): Mr Chairman, Sir, now that the Government pays hundred per cent salary bill for voluntary agency schools, I think that clerks attached to the voluntary agency schools in the Federal territory should be given consideration. In the past, these people are not considered for any promotion—no gratuity, no pension. I do hope that Government will do something to help these people who happen to be in voluntary agency schools in order that they may not feel that they just exist for nothing. Without these secondary schools clerks, the administration of secondary schools will be at a standstill. I therefore remind this Government again that now that they pay one hundred per cent salary bill, they should, when they consider teachers, consider clerks in voluntary schools in the Federal territory.

Mr Chairman, I support.

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** (Ilorin South): Mr Chairman, I rise to support this Head of allocation on education. The little light I would like to throw to this House is that adult education should be introduced in the Federal territory of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons as in the Regions.

Secondly, Sir, the Federal Government should lay more emphasis on education than it does at present. More money should be voted for primary and secondary education. More technical schools are badly needed while I expect more institutes for the training of more Nigerians for useful work. The Federal Government should also provide schools for the blind within the Federation.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr E. Damulak (Lowland):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to mention briefly very few things on education. Mr Chairman, human beings are endowed with infinitely varying qualities and dispositions and each one is different from the other. We cannot make them all the same. It would be a pretty dull world if we did. It is in our power, however, to give equal opportunities for all. The facilities for advanced education must be given out and multiplied.

Mr Chairman, Sir, no one who can take advantage of education should be denied this chance. This Department is putting long strides in progress, but I must reveal to this House that our young intelligent Nigerians who receive their education from missionary colleges are not very much recognised by this Department for scholarships as is done for those students from Government training colleges. And why this stands so, I cannot tell. This I assume proves that the Government of to-day is not interested in and grateful for the work of the missionaries which has contributed much to the civilisation of this country and for which this country should be grateful and proud. After all, these students are all Nigerians like ourselves. And most of our Members to-day in this House received their education from the missionaries, and why should we not stand and see that these young Nigerians are given an equal share of treatment from this Government.

Another point I should like to bring before this House on education is the training of our young Nigerians in Britain and the United States. I want this Government to consider giving scholarship to boys and girls who have completed their Class 7 and who prove to be very intelligent. These people should be sent to America and Britain to continue with their education. It will give these people a good opportunity of absorbing rightly the environment of those places. I am speaking this with

experience. The Northern Nigerian Government has already tried this which proves a great success and the Federal Government should take such good example as that of the Northern Regional Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services (Mr D. C. Ugwu):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to speak on the amendment proposed by Mr Rosiji and I want to correct the impression his speech may have made. It is not true to say that the Federal Adviser on Education and his staff do work just in Lagos here. When I was speaking, I referred to the Federal Advisory Service on Education. I also referred to the Joint Consultative Committee on Education. This shows that the duty of the Department is to advise all the Regional Governments on Education, and I can assure hon. Members that this Joint Consultative Committee... (Interruption).

**Mr Ayo Rosiji (Egba East):** They consult together; they don't advise.

**The Chairman:** Order, order. The Parliamentary Secretary.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services:** I do not know what meaning Mr Rosiji attaches to "advice" and "consultation" but I want to say that if they gain nothing from consultation, there would be no need for the Joint Consultative Committee to be formed. If the Regional Governments do not get anything from the Federal Education Department, there would be no need for the Committee to be sitting. I want to tell hon. Members that this Committee sits in each of the Regions we have in the country and there is a great demand for that Department by each Regional Government. So it is a very useful Department and there is no need for the motion being proposed by the hon. Member.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, I don't think that anyone would argue that since the Regionalisation of education services and other social services that the Federal headquarters, far from diminishing in staff and its scope of service, have increased them. If the purpose of this amendment is to point out that Federal headquarters have increased both in staff and in expenditure,

perhaps the extent to which the Parliamentary Secretary was trying to explain away would not have been necessary because it is obvious. I suppose if you sub-divide some work, well a part is not greater than the whole. It is rather surprising how the Federal headquarters like a snowball keeps growing and growing. There may be need for it, but at least we ought to know very well why these things happen. I remember sometime ago when we were talking about this Head, Education, that we all agreed that the Federal Advisers were all good people, there is no doubt about that, they are people who have been tried, who have served in the Regions, they know the different areas, and we say that they should therefore be given adequate work for them to carry on with. They should not be allowed just to sit down in an office, waiting for someone to come and ask their advice. We are happy to know from the Parliamentary Secretary that a good field has been found for their service, and that they are doing consultative work all through the Regions. We have met some of them and they are good men, and whatever is said here is no reflection on them whatsoever.

The person who is coming to be the new Chief Federal Adviser is a well tried member of the service, a man who is a gentleman in every way, his manners are polished, and therefore he should not be left to vegetate in an office, I say, let him go out into the field, after all talent left unused will grow rusty. We have been talking about the Federal Advisers in Teacher Training. Well, as long as their capabilities are not limited, I do not think we shall have any quarrel with this Head. I hope that the scope of usefulness in this Department is growing, and the Ministry will find enough work for them to do.

Sir, one has to reply to some of the things said by the Parliamentary Secretary in regard to buildings, and to some people who have sniggered about ram-shackle buildings. The point is this, would you not rather spread social amenities to cover a wider field of people, than to build magnificent palaces for a very few? If you have exhausted all your means on a building, well I am sure it will be first-class, and nobody is quarrelling with quality, but quantity. The contractors may quarrel with the quality, for after all they are the people into whose pockets the money is going, and for the most part they are non-Nigerians.

I am not a contractor, but one cannot help hearing that money is going into the pockets of the aliens.

Suppose you take all the Regions, the North, the South, the West, and the Cameroons and you put up these magnificent buildings for primary schools, the question is will our economy be able to afford it. Personally, I don't think we can afford such luxury buildings in our programmes at the moment. Nobody is asking you to copy other buildings, but whatever you put up, you must see that you cut your coat according to your cloth.

Sir, in commenting on this Head, I would like to point out that education is not a thing to be controversial about. We are all agreed that in order to have education, the highest and best in the country, there must be adequate consultation between the different Regions and the Federal headquarters. We also hope that any benefit will be mutually shared, and not one-sided. It is a matter of co-ordinating effort and not allowing each Region to pull its own way in matters of higher training and teacher training. Teacher training is the key to the advance of education in this country, so that any contribution that these Federal Advisers can make to Teacher Training throughout Nigeria is very welcome.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

*Sub-head 21.*

**Mr Jaja A. Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, I do not move.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East):** Sir, I rise to move to reduce sub-head 21 by £10. I just like to ask the Minister in charge of the Education Department what he is doing about the pensions of the retired teachers. About seven months ago we approved increased pensions for ex-civil servants. These teachers have asked for their own increased pay and I understand that the Education Department does not know anything about it. There seems to be some argument between the Financial Secretary's Office and the Ministry of Social Services as to whether they are entitled to any. The ex-teachers have been complaining that the pensions paid to them are very small and they are asking for an increase and I want to take this opportunity

to ask the Education Department what it is doing about the increase of pensions for retired teachers.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr J. S. Tarka** (Jemgbar): Mr Chairman, I would like to support this amendment. With this I want to give advice to the Minister. The trouble with that Minister is that unlike the Minister of Works he is an arm-chair philosopher. I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate Mr A. Shillingford on his promotion to the post of Federal Adviser on Education. My colleagues will agree with me, even our Minister of Communications will agree with me that this man deserves that post.

I have little cause to quarrel with the department particularly on two issues. There is the Principal Group 7 Trade Centre, Yaba, and Adviser on Technical Education. I am very sorry to say that in my view these posts should not be separated. They should be given to one man because they carry out nearly the same type of job. I see no reason why £2,040 and £2,400 should be divided. A portion of this money should be given to one man and he will do both jobs. I must advise that the government which contains the N.P.C should also be . . . . .(Interruption). I would like to encourage this Minister to see to it that the number of graduates in the King's College is reduced because the output is very, very poor.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Point of order. I am afraid whether the hon. Member is speaking to the amendment because the amendment says "to move to reduce sub-head 21 by £10."

**The Chairman**: If the hon. Member is talking about King's College, that has been dealt with and is not relevant to this Head.

**Mr J. S. Tarka**: Actually I see no reason why as I said before this post should be separated. They should be put together. I would like again to mention my disappointment in this Head. It appears that there has not been a lot of female education officers. It appears this department does not encourage women education officers. I want them to encourage female education in the Federation. I want this Ministry to try to produce more women education centres in the Federal territory including the Cameroons so that our

women who actually breed the generation of tomorrow will have the fullest knowledge of up-to-date Western civilisation.

With this I support the amendment.

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services** (Mr D. C. Ugwu): Mr Chairman, I want to speak to the Motion put up by Mr Rosiji. I think that other points being raised are extraneous. The simple answer to the question of pensions for teachers is that the matter is receiving the attention of our Ministry and the office of the Financial Secretary. The result will be made known whenever a decision is reached.

*The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kola Balogun) 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.*

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Mr F. E. Offor** (Okigwi): Sir, I do not move. (Hear, hear).

*Question again proposed.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Mr Chairman, I appeal to the Minister *in absentia* to give some consideration to a few points I want to raise under this Head.

I start by congratulating the Ministry for making it possible for hon. Members here to see something of the work being done at Ibadan. Now, what the Minister did in that respect was something new; something novel, and I think other Ministries should follow his noble example in that regard. Members got an invitation before we came to Lagos, asking them to go and see what was being done at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. A large number of Members went there and saw for themselves what has been done. I think that is a move in the right direction. It did not prevent Members from criticising this Ministry but it made it possible for them to criticise with full knowledge of what they were criticising.

I would, however, appeal to the Ministry in one particular respect. The University College, Ibadan, is an Institution of which we are all proud but it has established a precedent which I would appeal to the University College Hospital not to follow. It has now become a habit—in fact, a policy—for every Member of the staff of this type of university college to fly to the United Kingdom every

year. Well, I am not saying that it is not necessary for them to be in touch with events but we are paying too much for that already. They travel every year, with their wives and children, by air and Members would be shocked to know the bill that we have to pay every year on that account: everyone travels first-class.

I do not want to grudge them whatever privilege we can provide for them but can we afford this annual leave being spent in U.K. Expatriate officers may do it perhaps—it is their home—but I cannot understand an Ogbomosho lecturer going to spend his holiday somewhere in Atanamarivo! I am not suggesting that they should be taken out of the normal flow of educational thoughts and development but cannot that be done by arranging for a visit abroad, say, once in three years or once in four years, instead of people travelling every year. And they do say that it is because they want to get touch with what is going on. Well, after all, you cannot be a professor or a lecturer unless you have a reasonable degree of retentive memory.

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I invite your attention, Sir, to 25 (2) because this matter is properly raised under Head 83.

**Chief S. L. Akintola**: I thank the Minister very much and I . . . . .(Interruption).

**The Chairman**: Could the Minister kindly tell me what Head it ought to be raised on?

**The Minister of Transport**: Head 83, Sir—it is strictly on subventions.

**The Chairman**: I shall certainly take the Minister of Transport's advice that it could be properly raised on Head 83 and hope that Chief Akintola will take the opportunity of that Head.

**Chief Akintola**: But the point I had to make when I started—perhaps the Minister was not listening—I said that a bad example has already been started and the University College Hospital should not fall into the same pit. We are now collecting doctors from all over the world; do not let this annual travel abroad be part of their service. That is the particular point. Whether I raise it now or whether I raise it in future, I hope the Minister and his Colleagues will bear this in mind.

Now, the next point I want to make is about the Minister himself. We all like him very much.

**The Minister of Transport**: Point of order, Sir. We have passed the Head under the Ministry.

**The Chairman**: We are on the main Head 51 which includes the Minister. I know it is duplicating the Debate but I do not see how we can very well avoid it.

**Chief Akintola**: The point I am making, Sir, under this particular Head is this: whenever the Ministry of Transport points something out, the personality of the Minister himself is sufficient, and who will dare oppose the Minister of Land, Mines and Power? But I am afraid that the Ministry of Social Services will need to acquire a little of the Minister of Transport's masculinity in order to gain popularity. And I give you an example: we have had presented to us here a White Paper on the medical development scheme for Lagos; all the preparation had been completed; all the Permanent Secretary's secretaries have completed their own portion of the job. Now, the whole hospital is three-quarters completed: what happens? The work is suspended. On what pretext? We are told that they cannot get all the money: they can get only 2.8 or 2.9 per cent.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): We are coming to Head 52, which is Medical Services, and I think this matter could be raised under that Head.

**The Chairman**: I certainly think it would be better to take it either on Head 52—Medical—or under subventions again.

**Chief Akintola**: Well, I take the warning of the Minister in good part. But here I am raising the Minister's own particular fitness for his post; whether he is in a position to discharge his duties satisfactorily. But, at the moment, once again I yield.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services** (Mr D. C. Ugwu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am protesting against this thing being said by the Leader of the Opposition. This is an insult to the Minister himself and we would like the Leader of the Opposition to confine his remarks to what is being discussed. It is surprising that the Pied Piper, like the Leader of the Opposition with a whispering voice and little stature

will talk of the Minister's personality with disdain!

**The Chairman:** I am not quite sure whether Chief Akintola has finished his speech?

**Chief Akintola:** No, I have not finished.

When I refer to the Minister I do not refer to him in disparaging tones. I said he did not have the gift of masculinity, like the Minister of Communications, for example, and I was described as the Pied Piper. I agree. But I am going to pipe to the young Parliamentary Secretary until I open the stones of the rock of Abeokuta and lock him there forever.

Well I am appealing to the other Ministers not to treat any particular Ministry with disfavour merely because the Minister is not of an attractive disposition. I think the Ministry of Social Service has not been treated fairly. Other Ministers, I refer particularly to the Minister of Communications, who will dare deny him what he wants? Let the Financial Secretary try, and I am sure that he will bring the heavens down on him.

Now why is the Minister for Social Services not given the same treatment?

I therefore appeal to you in the name of everything that is fair to treat him with the dignity that his office deserves.

**Mr T. O. S. 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.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

£698,160 for Head 51—Education—agreed to.

#### HEAD 52—MEDICAL

*Question proposed That the sum of £1,235,670 for Head 52—Medical—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Sir, I rise to move to reduce sub-head 1 by £100. In moving this Amendment, Sir, I would not like to belabour this House. This Department, Sir, is the most troublesome Department in the sense that the staff and members of the Department are living under very oppressive measures. Their conditions of service are deplorable and I would like to say that the whole staff of the Department are not happy at all, especially the Doctors.

Sir, we have been clamouring for good health facilities and other medical facilities. We cannot have these things if we do not

encourage Doctors. I am happy, however, that the Head of this Department is an African. If the Head of the Department had been an expatriate I should have known what to say. An African is heading this Department, Sir, and wherever we have an African as Head of a Department we expect him to make room for other Africans under him to have better prospects.

To the best of my knowledge, Sir, I would say that the Doctors and others who are working in this Department are not at all contented. I will cite one important example. In a short time the present Chief Medical Adviser will go on retirement. I would like to know who will relieve him. Has he created any vacancy for those Doctors under him now to come up to the scale from which they can relieve him? No, Sir, and this is of very important significance.

When we, Members, or Representatives of the people, come to the floor of the House and cry for Nigerianisation we wish the Africans who are lifted as a result of our labours to try and lift those people under them. We do not want anyone to give the impression that he is the *Alfa* and the *Omega* on any question at all. I am suggesting, Sir, that the present holder of the post of Chief Medical Adviser is trying to create the impression that there is no suitable African to relieve him.

I understand, Sir, that someone from the Western Region is being shifted to the Federal Medical Service to relieve him. Is there no African Doctor in the Federal Medical Service suitable to relieve him as Chief Medical Adviser? Africans must realise that the object of their going up is to help other Africans like themselves; we do not want them to suppress their subordinates. If they want to suppress them what happened to the Administrator-General this morning will happen to them.

This is a very serious matter, Sir, as we well know that the African Medical Officers in the Medical Department are not happy at all. There is no avenue of promotion being created for them. I understand that there are very many Doctors in that Department who have applied for study leave and were denied, and in addition promotion prospects are denied them. We all know that when expatriates are promoted to high posts they try to create room for their own fellow expatriate officers. Why cannot Africans follow suit?

The Chief Medical Adviser is going away. If we cannot find a suitable African in the Federation then we can bypass the Federation and go to the Regions. But as we have qualified people in the Federal Medical Service, why not promote them?

Last year the salary of the Chief Medical Adviser was £2,880; this year it is £3,060. Do we give him all this money in order to suppress Africans? No; on the other hand we pay him well in order that he will create incentive for Africans in his Department, and I would like him to see that something is done for these people suffering under frustration. I understand that these people have petitioned the Ministry of Social Services pointing out the anomalies in the conditions of service. I hope the Ministry will look into their case, and the Chief Medical Adviser must heed their cries and do something for them.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr P. M. Dokotri** (Jos): Mr Chairman, I am happy to be on this side of the House. I am happy because my present seat places me in a better position to command a greater audience of this House.

The Medical Department, Sir, is an important Department because a nation is judged on how well the health of its people is kept; a nation is judged as to how good or bad the standard of the general health of its people is. I know that this Department is on the concurrent list, nevertheless it is my considered opinion. (Interruption.)

**M. Baba Danbappa** (North East Central Kano): A point of order, Sir, Standing Order 25 (1)—“A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.” The hon. Member is reading his speech, Sir.

**Mr Chairman:** I do not know if that is true, but Standing Orders are sometimes broken.

**Mr Dokotri:** Mr Chairman, it is obvious that even educationally I am better off.

As I was saying, it is my considered opinion, Mr Chairman, that the Federal Government should give a lead in encouraging the growth of preventive and curative medicines in this country. Health, Mr Chairman, is wealth. We are proud to have at the top of this Department, an African; I should say, a Nigerian.

I will associate myself with what the last speaker has said. It is true that we, as representatives of the people when we speak in this House, speak the minds of the people. And we would like our Africans who are on the upper rung of Government Departments to take our considerations seriously. I do hope that both the Minister and the gentleman concerned will not hesitate to take the good advice we have given once again.

The very startling figure of the outbreak of smallpox in the country should be a matter of great concern to all the Members of this House. It is a pity, indeed, Mr Chairman, that very many people in this country are never vaccinated until an outbreak of one thing or the other happens in the country. Then, you would find that the Department concerned runs at random to bring relief to the people. This is a matter which I consider is most unfortunate.

We have in this country sufficient manpower to give our medical field sufficient material to work. As an example, Mr Chairman, people in this country—there are very many girls who flit about in the streets and in various other places. These are a powerful source to supply the man-power necessary in this field and in various other departmental activities. These girls, I consider, are quite suitable—and some of them have education enough to be trained as nurses or midwives—in order to accelerate the pace of preventative medicine in this country. They seem to possess certain qualities which we need from them as nurses, and I think they are much better off as nurses, than the men folk. It is needless, Mr Chairman, to say how demoralising prostitution is to a nation. It leads to other things, like dishonesty, which go to break up a country.

It is no use for the Native Authorities or for Local Government Councils to chase these undesirable girls in order to move them from one place to another. It does not help to solve the problem. If the Regional Governments cannot cope with the problem, I think the Federal Government needs to do it. The Federal Government should establish training schools in midwifery and in nursing, so that these girls can be usefully employed. This has been done in other countries, particularly beyond the Iron Curtain. We know that we all hate the Government set-up in that part of the world, but what is good in that part of the world, should be copied.



ating the physical and mental health of our young men, and as nurses, whereas we have to do the job.

I should like, Mr Chairman, to thank you on behalf of the Members of the United Middle Belt Congress and myself, for undertaking to allocate seats to Members of the Party in this House. Whatever we may have done, Mr Chairman, goes down in history, and posterity has yet to judge whether we are right or wrong. We are convinced that our cause is right and worth fighting for.

**The Chairman:** If the hon. Member persists in irrelevance, I must ask him to wind up his speech.

**Mr Dokotri:** Well, Mr Chairman, the Medical Department is a very important one, and we have all spoken here, with one voice, when we said we want medical facilities provided in the rural areas. These medical facilities cannot be provided unless this Government takes the initial move to say to the Regional Governments, that without getting our boys and children trained up properly, and giving them encouragement to do it in the schools, it is useless for us to get up and talk in this respect.

Mr Chairman, I would end by saying that we are shaking the very foundations of the N.P.C. Government, even to the point that the Premier of the Northern Region has come to their rescue. We shall do it, despite the onslaught to forestall us. If the North was broken up into states, we should have unity in Nigeria. If you leave the North as it is, you will one day find that someone from the Sudan has stolen it. *(Interruption).*

**The Chairman:** I must say the hon. Member's speech, or part of it, was not relevant, but I think I heard the hon. Member say he was about to conclude his speech.

**Mr Dokotri:** Well, Mr Chairman, we can all understand the nervousness of the people on my left, because they are afraid of being exposed. *(Interruption).*

**The Chairman:** Order.... the hon. Member has sometimes been irrelevant, and the other hon. Members do not allow me to hear what he is trying to say. Let him speak, please.

**Mr Dokotri:** Mr Chairman, I support the Head.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I have rather an unpleasant duty to do. Under Head 52. For the past few days now, we have been very severe on our expatriate officials. We have the Chief Secretary; we have been severe on the Financial Secretary, and the Attorney-General—even though he was not responsible, he inherited a legacy that was not of his own making.

Now, Sir, in this particular case we have to deal with our own man. Sir, if I may remind this House, on the 24th of March, 1952 the Government was forced to issue a Press Release as a result of certain editorials in local papers here, national papers, criticising the then Inspector-General of Medical Services, who happen to be one of our men. At that time, Sir, this was what was written in reply: "Articles have recently appeared in the Press containing uninformed criticisms of some aspect of policy in the Medical Department, and in certain instances personal attacks on the present Nigerian Head of the Department have been made. The main criticisms made, to summarise, are as follows. Firstly, that the Department is lukewarm in its policy of Nigerianisation. Secondly that it discriminates against Nigerians in the matter of recruitment and promotion into the senior service particularly as regards recruitment of overseas trained Nigerian doctors and nurses". Then it went on, after giving some other things, to say, "As regards the allegations which have been made regarding the treatment of Nigerian medical officers already in the service, there is no case in which a suitable Nigerian has been denied promotion. Apart from the Inspector-General himself, who is a Nigerian, there are six officers in the superscale establishment, three are senior medical officers and three specialists". Now, it is this point that I want to deal with.

The claim then was that there was no case where a suitable Nigerian has been denied promotion. My point, Sir, is this, that to-day we have in the medical service of the Federation a Nigerian who is qualified by education, by profession, by his standard in every way to be the Deputy Federal Adviser of Medical Services, and I have incontrovertible evidence in the writing of the Chief Medical Adviser himself recommending this gentleman in every way, administratively, in every respect; he recommended him so highly that we do not know the reason why now at this stage he should

turn against that very person who is next to him, to refuse to recommend him and to give preference to an expatriate who was next to this man, and the expatriate, Sir, rightly refused to accept because that would cause trouble. This Federal Medical Adviser asked for the Secretary of State to indent for an expatriate. Sir, apparently there has been silent war going on, and that was prevented. Now, what do we find?

If my information is wrong, I may be corrected. This eminent Nigerian has asked for a Nigerian in the Western Region, who was formerly S.M.O. in the Northern Region, in Group 7, who was only about a week or two ago promoted to Assistant Director of Medical Services in the Western Region, coming to Group 6; now he wants this man to go from Group 6 to Group 4A, whereas this man next to him is in Group 5 already and had been there for three years. Now, what is the reason for it?

Sir, as I say, I have incontrovertible evidence. I want to read it out for purposes of record. It was a letter written by the Chief Medical Adviser on the 7th of August, 1956. In this letter, Sir, the Chief Medical Adviser was recommending this young Nigerian to be a Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and you get every recommendation of its value in the world in every way, and before I read it there is one aspect of it I would like this House to note. A paragraph. "As his Head of Department I am well placed to comment on Dr X's administrative ability. He is a first-class hospital administrator. His natural administrative flair will undoubtedly stand him in good stead in the administration of a University Department. In fact, his administrative ability is such that had he wished I would have recommended him for advancement in that field in the Medical Service." That is his own writing. "He is always ready to champion the just cause of his fellow officers and his subordinates. He has admirable social qualities." I am commenting on portions of it because here it is, when it comes to question of administration, the Chief Medical Adviser is satisfied, when it comes to question of dealing with his subordinates, he is quite suitable, what else do we want from our man?

And yet what is it that he has against him? Sir, when it comes to qualifications this youngman is M.A., M.D., B.C.H., M.A.O., *(Interruptions and*

*laughter)* F.R.C.P.I., D.C.H., L.M., Senior Specialist on Obstetrics and Gynaecology.....

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** He left out S.C.O.A. and U.A.C. I

**Mr Wachuku:** Now, Sir, I am saying this, like the case which we had to deal with this morning, the case of the Administrator-General. This is a point which this House must take a stand on. This is a very big stab in the back because, in this House at the last Budget Session, this House fought when our man—we are proud of this son of Nigeria—was not graded by Gorsuch. We fought here that he must be properly graded, and then you commissioned us in the Finance Committee to fight a war in the Finance committee, and it was in the Finance Committee that we un-animously fixed the scale which he wanted for him.

Now, if we did that for him, is it not right and proper that he should do it for his brother? Now, Sir, we understand that a junior person, who has just been promoted Assistant Director, is now being groomed because of the criticism to come to this Federation to supercede a man who is in Group 5 and we are asking the Council of Ministers not to allow this and to tell His Excellency not to approve of such an appointment, if it is made. If he is the man next to him, Sir, he should take that position, and nobody else.

**Mr Speaker:** I must remind the hon. Member that when I gave him preference over the Minister, and the Minister gave way to him I did ask him to allow time for the Minister to reply. The hon. Member has had more than half the time since then.

**Mr Wachuku:** I will just conclude, Sir. Now, Sir, in the Civil Service Commission—why we are so bitter about it is this. This man is also in the Civil Service Commission, and if he does not like to help our fellowmen to get on, how can we have confidence in him as a member of the Civil Service Commission? It means that anybody who comes there he will just rule him out. And the complaint that we had in the Civil Service Commission is that it has always been this particular person who has been pressing down the Africans who come forward there.

**The Chairman:** We are not on Public Service Commission.

**Mr Wachuku** : I appreciate that, Sir, I am only trying to expiate on this. Sir, we say that unless this young man who is next in command is promoted to this post, the Chief Medical Adviser may consider it necessary at this stage—having given to the country such good services—to retire. Because we feel that this attitude cannot be in the best interests of the nation, and we will not hesitate to condemn it in no uncertain terms, and we call on the Council of Ministers to take this into very serious consideration, and particularly the Minister in charge, to put his foot down on this subject.

**The Chairman** : The last Member has exceeded his allotted time.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services** (Mr D. C. Ugwu) : Mr Chairman, to reply to this all I have to say is that the question of recommendation of an African who holds a very important post, is not the concern of the Ministry as such. I want to remind the Members also, that if there is an African who is holding the highest post in any Department, whether he recommends somebody to succeed him or not, is not the concern of my Ministry. All that I want to say in this regard is that the question of promotion, appointment and so forth and conditions of work of Medical Officers, is not directly the concern of the Ministry. (Interruption).

If the present holder of that post goes away, it is not the Ministry that will appoint somebody to replace him but, as I said, all facilities and all opportunities are given to our Medical Officers for progress. For example, the question of studyleave, I have to say to the hon. Members that about 18 Doctors were sent overseas since 1952 for studies. All the opportunities that can be given to Medical Officers are being given to them. The private life of the holder of the present post is not the concern of the Ministry and I will not say anything about that.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West) : I am deeply grateful that I have two minutes to speak. The speech we have just had is most unfair to the Head of that Department. A lot of criticism and allegations have been made and it would be unfair if there are no defences to these criticisms. Let the Parliamentary Secretary tell us if the departmental heads are being attacked and if that is the way they are being defended. If the fault is that of the

Head of the Department, let him have sufficient courage to say it. I am not holding brief for anybody, I will hold brief for justice. That is the point I would like to make. It was a very good way we have spoken. We, on this side of the House, will support you for Nigerianisation Policy, we will fight it together anywhere but once the forces are not for Nigeria, whether that Nigerian comes from the North or the West or wherever he comes from, will not be the responsibility of this House. (Interruption).

**Mr Chairman** : Chief Akintola must be heard.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** : If you say it is unfair, let it continue in this House to receive application, once you start with that precedent there will be no end. I am not particularly opposed to anybody being promoted but let us stop at the policy of Nigerianisation, if we give up to the honour of the African who is employed, there will be a lot of confusion and that is bad.

*Question, That Sub-Head 1 be reduced by £100 put and negatived.*

*And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (6th March) to put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the Vote under consideration.*

*Question, That £1,235,670 for Head 52—Medical—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

*The Chairman then proceeded forthwith to put severally the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 52 to 59.*

#### HEAD 53.—CHEMISTRY

£17,110 for Head 53—Chemistry—agreed to.

#### HEAD 54.—MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

£26,790 for Head 54—Ministry of Research and Information—agreed to.

#### HEAD 55.—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

£171,890 for Head 55—Agriculture (Research)—agreed to.

#### HEAD 56.—FISHERIES (RESEARCH)

£21,240 for Head 56—Fisheries (Research)—agreed to.

#### HEAD 57.—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)

£66,910 for Head 57—Forestry (Research)—agreed to.

#### HEAD 58.—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)

£170,490 for Head 58—Veterinary (Research)—agreed to.

#### HEAD 59.—INFORMATION

£174,510 for Head 59—Information—agreed to.

*Then the Chairman left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Committee report progress; to sit again Wednesday 20th March.*

#### THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Second Reading deferred until Monday, 25th March.*

#### Adjournment

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Mr Kolawole Balogun) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Works** (Alhaji M. I. Wada) : Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to the demolition of houses going on at Oja Village via Yaba and we would like the Chief Secretary to do all that is possible to look into this matter. At present there is a lot of acquisition of properties going on in Lagos, by which people in Lagos are deprived of their houses. Secondly, there is a slum clearance going on in Lagos and as we know our people do not get room to stay in at Ikoyi, so that with this slum clearance going on some people in Lagos move to a place called Oja Village. This Oja Village has been in existence for about 300 years. For the Lagos Town Council to start demolition of the houses in this village Sir, is brutal Sir, very brutal Sir. So that I am asking the Chief Secretary to be kind enough to look into this matter so that people who are at present deprived of their houses in Lagos and who are taking shelter in this place Sir, may be protected.

In conclusion, I have to inform the House that the NCNC won 4 Orlu seats. (Laughter).

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey) : The first information that

I had on this matter was given me by the hon. Member today. From the inquiries I have made, I understand that the houses that have been demolished are not those that have been there for three hundred years but houses newly built in breach of the bye-laws and built without the submission of a plan to the Lagos Town Council. They are being demolished under the order of the Lagos Town Council. However, this information differs from that given me personally by the hon. Member and I have undertaken to ask the Lagos Town Council for the facts. When those facts have been received, I shall take such action as I hope is appropriate.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at six minutes to six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 19th March, 1957.*

#### QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

*Question—*

**W.10. Mr J. M. Udochi** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state the number of applications received during 1956 for Officer Cadets in the Army, indicating the number received from persons already in the army, and the number from outsiders.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : 133 applications were received during 1956 for officer cadets in the Nigerian Military Forces. Of these, 27 were serving soldiers and 106 were civilians.

*Question—*

**W.11. Mr J. M. Udochi** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state how many persons were permitted to take the entrance examination for selection as Officer Cadets in the army during 1956; how many were successful and of these the number admitted to cadetship, indicating how many of the cadets were persons already in the army, or outsiders.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : The number of applicants who were permitted

during 1956 to take the entrance examination for selection as officer cadets in the Nigerian Military Forces was 133. Of the 106 civilians who applied, only 40 presented themselves for the examination, i.e., 37.7 per cent. All the 27 serving soldiers who applied took the examination. The number of the civilians and serving soldiers who were successful at the entrance examination was 35. Of the twelve who passed the Force Selection Board and medical examination and were admitted to cadetship, 4 were civilians and 8 were serving soldiers.

*Question—*

**W.15. M. Mohammed Bello, Turakin Argungu** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state the present strength of the Nigeria Police Force in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions, and in Lagos and the Southern Cameroons, respectively.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The present strength of the Nigeria Police Force, all ranks, by Regions is as follows :

Eastern Region .. ..	2,621
Western Region .. ..	2,024
Northern Region .. ..	1,868
Lagos (including Force Headquarters) .. ..	3,116
Southern Cameroons .. ..	353

*Question—*

**W.60. M. Isa, Sarkin Agwara** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware of the transfer of the Borgu Divisional Headquarters from Ilorin to Bussa ; and if he will take steps to supply telephone facilities to Bussa to serve the pressing need of the Divisional Headquarters there.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** I am aware that the removal of the Borgu Divisional Headquarters to Bussa has strengthened the need for telephone facilities there. However I regret that the resources of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs do not permit the provision of these facilities under the 1955-60 Telecommunications Development Programme. I can, however, assure the hon. Member that Bussa's needs will be given due consideration when the department's next development plan is being formulated.

*Question—*

**W.67. M. Damale Kaita** asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

If he will state how many of the 300 varieties of rice under trial at Badeggi in Niger Province have shown promising results.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Research and Information :** The current number of varieties under trial at Badeggi is 250. Of these 50 are indigenous varieties under observation as possible breeding material but otherwise commercially unacceptable. Four varieties—"Mbag-Boli", "Kontor," "Anak-Diedek" and "Radinchina", showed outstanding properties of flood resistance in 1955, and nine others showed lesser degree of promise.

Sixty-nine promising varieties have been multiplied for trials and for further observation in 1956. Of these forty were grown concurrently in yield trials. All except five produced yields exceeding one ton per acre, three gave yields exceeding two tons per acre, and five yielded over 30 cwt per acre. Some trials were replicated in the Regions and generally confirmed observations at Badeggi. The variety "Maas" consistently produced yields 50-60 per cent above "BG79" which is the principal variety in Nigeria at present. Eighteen new varieties introduced from abroad in 1956 have been multiplied and are awaiting trial.

*Question—*

**W.73. Mr F. N. E. Ngale** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state why a battalion of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment is not now stationed in the Southern Cameroons.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The strength of the Nigerian Military Forces does not permit the stationing of a battalion of The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment in the Southern Cameroons and the first call on any additional funds that might become available for defence expenditure would, in pursuance of Nigeria's undertaking at the 1953 Forces Conference, necessarily be applied to an increase in the share borne by Nigeria of the total cost of the Nigerian Military Forces. Barrack accommodation in the Southern Cameroons could be provided only at great expense and if another battalion of the Regiment could be raised it would, in the view of the military

command, be able to make the most effective and economical contribution to the internal security of the Federation as a whole (including the Southern Cameroons) if it were stationed elsewhere in Nigeria.

*Question—*

**W.79. M. Usumanu Maitambari,** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

In view of the increase in business at Argungu and Jega Postal Agencies, if he will consider converting them to Post Offices.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The conditions for the conversion of Postal Agencies to Post Offices are given in the White Paper on Post Offices which is to be presented to the House this session. Neither Argungu with only 9650 units of business nor Jega with 2083 units qualify for conversion.

*Question—*

**W.81. M. Abubakar Gurumpawo** asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will implement his proposals to extend Trunk Road A from Jada to Serti.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Works :** Yes, Sir, the hon. Member will recollect that I was proposing to spend £150,000 on this road to carry out improvements between Jada and Sugu and between Jimtari and Serti. It has proved more convenient to proceed with the Jimtari-Serti section and work is now proceeding. The costs, however, look like being higher than was at first anticipated.

*Question—*

**W.82. Mr M. Abubakar Gurumpawo** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If consideration will be given to the extension of electricity from Jimeta to Yola.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Land Mines and Power :** Yes, Sir. Consideration is being given to a scheme for extending electricity from Jimeta to Yola. As the scheme is not likely to be economic it is probable that some special financial arrangement will have to be made before the scheme is proceeded with.

*Question—*

**W.85. Mr B. A. Obaje** asked the Minister of works :—

If he will state the total mileage of Trunk Roads B which he proposes to convert to Trunk Roads A in the financial year 1957-58, indicating the roads affected.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Works :** None, Sir.

*Question—*

**W.90. Rev. E. S. Bens** asked the Minister Transport :—

If he is aware of the many snags which impede navigation in the Kole Creek and Nun River ; and what the Inland Waterways Department proposes to do to clear these snags.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Transport :** I am aware of no serious snags in either of these two rivers. The Nun river was cleared last season, but not Ekole creek since it was not included in the clearance programme submitted by the Regional Government. Arrangements have now been made for both waterways to be cleared next season.

*Question—*

**O.191. Mr F. N. E. Ngale** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will establish police stations at Tombel and Mbonge in Kumba Division, in view of the long distance between those towns and the Divisional Headquarters.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** I hope that it will be possible (subject to the provision of funds by the Legislature) to establish a police post at Tombel during the financial year 1958-59.

The case for a police post at Mbonge is under consideration.

Police patrols are however, now operating in the Tombel and Mbonge districts and have been particularly active recently especially in the former area.

*Question—*

**O.192. Mr F. N. E. Ngale** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will take steps to post vehicle testing officers to the two provinces in the Southern Cameroons.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Yes, Sir. The House has agreed in Committee of Supply to make provision for posts for two vehicle inspection officers in the Southern Cameroons. One of these posts will enable the officer who has temporarily been stationed at Mamfe to fill a permanent post, and the other will be at Victoria.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 19th March, 1957

The House met at 11 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

## Question—

\*O.169. Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state how many miles of Trunk Roads A have been tarred in the periods 1955-56 and 1956-57 in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions respectively?

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works** (Alhaji the Hon. M. I. Wada): The total mileage of Trunk Roads A which have been tarred in the period 1955-56 in the Northern Region is 92 miles, in the Western Region 22 miles, and in the Eastern Region no mileage; in the period 1956-57 in the Northern Region 87½ miles, in the Western and Eastern Regions no mileage.

Although no tarring of Federal Trunk Roads took place in the Eastern Region during 1955-57, surveys were carried out on a number of tarring projects provided for in the Economic Programme all of which work should commence after April 1957.

## Supplementary to O.169—

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende): Will the Minister give us the reason why not even one inch of Federal Trunk Road A was constructed in the Eastern Region?

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: If the hon. Member listened carefully, I said that during the period of no visible activity a lot of work was going on in the Drawing rooms and on the surveys side of the Department. Surveys were made, for example, at 9-mile corner, Nsukka, Aba, Umuhia-Agwu-Oji River, Abakaliki-Ehi and Enugu-Abakaliki. We have surveyed all these. The documents have been prepared and we hope work will commence in April of this year.

## Question—

O.171. M. Nuhu Bamalli asked the Minister of Works :—

When he proposes to start the construction of the new bridge over the Kubanni River in Zaria which is now overdue?

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: Construction of the new bridge over the Kubanni River should begin in July.

## Question—

O.172. M. Nuhu Bamalli asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state when the last traffic census was taken on the bridge over the Kubanni River in Zaria, indicating the respective figures for motor vehicles, bicycles, animals and pedestrians in that census.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: The last census of traffic using the bridge over the Kubanni River was taken in July 1956 and indicated an average of 2,026 motor vehicles. No census was taken of bicycles, animals and pedestrians.

## Question—

O.173. M. Nuhu Bamalli asked the Minister of Works :—

If he proposes to assign the construction of the new bridge over the Kubanni River in Zaria to the Regional Public Works Department or to private contractors?

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: I propose to assign the construction of the bridge over the Kubanni River to contractors.

## Question—

O.194. Mr F. U. Mbakogu asked the Minister of Works :—

What progress has been made in investigating the possibility of bridging the River between Onitsha and Asaba.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: On 2nd March, 1956, Government entered into a contract with the Netherlands Engineering Consultants (otherwise known as NEDECO) with the following terms of reference :—

“To obtain all necessary surveys, levels, soundings and borings, and make such investigations and enquiries as may be necessary for the purpose of a report to be made by them advising the Government as to the practicability of constructing a bridge across the River Niger not more than five

miles from Onitsha, and the most suitable site therefor bearing in mind the requirements of river navigation.”

In accordance with the terms of this contract, the Consultants have since been fully engaged on the desired investigation, and I am glad to be able to say that I have recently received information from them to the effect that the boring programme connected with the investigation was completed in September, and that a final report from the Soil Mechanics Laboratory at Delft would be forthcoming shortly.

## Question—

O.195. Mr J. I. Izah asked the Minister of Works :—

In view of the absence of Federal roads in the Delta Province, if he will consider the advisability of converting the Warri-Ughelli-Kwale-Utagba-Uno-Obiaruku road into a Trunk Road A.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: No, Sir.

## Supplementary to O.195—

Mr J. I. Izah: I hope the hon. Minister realises that Members are not really satisfied with an answer “No, Sir.” We would welcome a fuller explanation.

**The Minister of Works**: I have specially chosen to say just “No” in this case, Sir, as there is a substantive Motion on Trunk A Roads coming up, and I am sure the hon. Member will have a full chance to air his views later on.

## Question—

O.196. M. Usmanu Maitambari asked the Minister of Works :—

In view of the heavy traffic using Jega Ferry on Trunk Road A, if he will give urgent attention to the construction of a bridge across Jega River as soon as the Takware Bridge is completed.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: Yes, Sir, the construction of a bridge across the Jega River on Trunk Road A.15 is provided for in the Economic Programme. Site investigation and design work will be carried out during the next financial year.

## Question—

O.197. M. Usmanu Maitambari asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will give a date for tarring the Trunk Road A from Kontagora thence to Yelwa, Jega and Sokoto.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: No, Sir, the tarring of Trunk Road A.15 from Kontagora to Sokoto is not included in the Economic Programme which expires in 1960.

## Question—

O.198. M. Usmanu Maitambari asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state how many miles of the Trunk Road A from Kontagora thence to Yelwa, Jega and Sokoto would be rehabilitated in 1957.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: It is not possible to say, but routine maintenance and rehabilitation will be carried out wherever necessary.

## Question—

O.213. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Works :—

If he is aware that no Trunk Road A passed through Orlu Division; and if he will take steps to have a Trunk Road A passing through the Divisional Headquarters there.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Works**: No, Sir. Indeed 10 miles of Trunk Road A.6 pass through Orlu Division.

The answer to the second half of the question is also, No, Sir.

## Supplementary to O.213—

Mr E. C. Akwivu: Is the hon. Minister aware that this ten miles is very far away from the Divisional Headquarters.

**The Minister of Works**: The definition of Trunk Roads A, does not specify that they must pass through any particular place.

Mr E. C. Akwivu: May I know, Sir, what is the definition or the classifications for Trunk Roads A.

**The Minister of Works**: The definition, Sir, is contained in a Gazette and I would refer the hon. Member to it.

## Question—

O.214. Mr E. C. Akwivu asked the Minister of Works :—

If he is aware that the shortest link between Port Harcourt and Enugu is the road from Port Harcourt to Enugu via Orlu, linking

Owerri and Awka; and if he will consider converting this road into a Trunk Road A.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Works :** I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply I gave on Tuesday 20th March, 1956 to Question No. O.147 asked by the hon. F. U. Mbakogu.

*Question—*

**\*O.199. M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa** asked the Minister of Transport :—

Why the Nigerian Railway Corporation stopped the raiing of cattle from Minna to the Southern Provinces.

*Answer—*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport (M. Bukar Dipcharima):** The Nigerian Railway Corporation originally agreed to the proposal to rail cattle from Minna but the Veterinary Department, Northern Region, suggested that railings should be made from Gwada. This suggestion was unacceptable to the Corporation because Gwada is only a wayside station with no shunting facilities and water supplies.

The Corporation is prepared to rail cattle from Minna provided (a) there is sufficient traffic to justify the construction of a cattle ramp and siding by the Railway; and (b) the Veterinary Department can issue permits to senders and arrange the necessary inspections of cattle and supervision of loading. The Department has not been able so far to do this.

*Supplementary to O.199—*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Will the hon. Minister tell the House the present volume of cattle traffic in Minna.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport :** Sir, the question would have been better addressed to the Minister of Trade and Industry. The Minister of Transport is not responsible for cattle traffic.

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

### SPECIAL TRAFFIC CONSTABULARY

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, which reads: That this House welcomes the spirit of public service shown by members of the Special Constabulary (Regular Branch) and acknowledges their contributions to the maintenance of law and

order and accordingly calls upon the Government to consider as a matter of urgency the establishment of a traffic branch of the Special Constabulary from public spirited citizens throughout the whole Federation whose ascertainable incomes are no less than £300 per annum, particularly such of them as are car owners, to assist in checking traffic offences on the roads.

Mr Speaker, Sir, views were ventilated several times in this House by all sections of the people. These views were all critical about the unsatisfactory control of traffic in the country by the Police. Replying to the Motion of hon. Z. B. Olokesusi last August, the Chief Secretary said as follows *inter alia*: "Now, Sir, as will appear from the terms of my amendment, the Police are in fact now engaged in introducing a new system of traffic control but it is no good my trying to mislead the House into the idea that some revolutionary method of control has suddenly been devised and is being put into practice which will solve all traffic problems."

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is clear that the Government is alive to its responsibility, but the new system has not effected any change or solved the problem. It is the duty of the Legislators to make practical suggestions to the Government to reach a satisfactory solution. Traffic control has exposed our Traffic Police to the temptations of bribery and corruption.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if self-government or independence of this country means anything at all to all of us, we must keep our Police, particularly the young ones, away from any temptation of bribery and corruption. I am afraid that traffic control as at present has caused our Police a loss in reputation and prestige. They are not guided by their predecessors who did not freely indulge in bribery and corruption, if they did so at all. I do not say, Mr Speaker, that there are not now among the rank and file those who do resist the evil of bribery and corruption. But even then sometimes you find that when this few who do resist try to rear their heads against their superiors or other members of the rank and file in the majority, they are subjected to victimisation and suppression.

The Government should discourage any system of control which can seduce our youths into any evil. It is a market talk that traffic offenders brought to book are mostly those who

cannot pay their way through. The following extract from the speech of hon. Z. B. Olokesusi last August is pertinent—Mr Speaker, with your permission: "I want to point out to you, Sir, the worst defect in this system. The system as at present whereby two or three Police Constables are placed in certain position to check the particulars of cars and drivers encourages bribery and corruption." The extract too from the speech of hon. S. J. Mariere is pertinent: "I discovered that cases of lorries that are being used without vehicle licences, without a certificate of road-worthiness were even brought up because they are an avenue for Traffic Police to make money. I found that it was then useless to send such reports."

A check in the system of control is a desideratum. Special constabulary from public-spirited citizens as embodied in my Motion will help to resolve the problem. The Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Financial Secretary, our Federal and Regional Ministers and Legislators and other personalities, could be enlisted as Special Constables. They need not go in uniforms or posted to special localities or be tied to their duties which should be honorary. They should have identity cards like the C.I.D. men. Traffic offenders caught on any road should appear in any court at the choice and convenience of the Special Constable.

Traffic offenders will be kept in check and in perpetual fear if they do not easily know who are Special Constables on the road. The regular Traffic Police as now constituted should be left to direct traffic in the townships. My Motion commends itself to all who feel that a system should be evolved to check bribery and corruption in traffic control.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East):** Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Motion. The Mover of the Motion has covered all the ground and I am just out to dot his "i's" and cross his "t's".

I shall proceed by saying that this is a Motion that should commend itself to all sides of this House. Hon. Members are all car owners and they are potential users of roads both in their various constituencies and when attending meetings of this hon. House. You all have your own experiences one time or the other with the lorry drivers, tractor drivers, and even taxi drivers on the roads and in towns and cities. They have little or no regard for

private cars sharing the use of the road with them. Once you start from your home in your car you have your life on your palm until you get to your destination to heave a sigh of relief. At danger points and narrow bridges the lorry driver expects the private car to clear and stop for him to pass and if you dare to challenge his monopoly either your car is hit or it is brushed aside into a ditch. Some of them negotiate a sharp bend with terrific speed not bothering who is coming in the opposite direction.

It is the same story when a private car driver desires to overtake a lorry. Some drivers will remain adamant and will not give way even though you may sound the horn of your car for miles and miles following the monster of a vehicle he is driving. It is even worse if it is on a road not tarred. Apart from not giving you the right of way the lorry driver takes delight in raising a storm of dust by driving faster not caring whether he blinds the driver in the car behind. You are compelled to slow down but you find that after a mile or two the driver stops to put down the passengers. There is nothing you can do. If you take down the number of the lorry and report the matter to the Police Station you will hear that there is nothing they can do because the incident took place outside their area. They will do nothing even if you put down your address stating you are prepared to come and give evidence in court.

On the 4th of February, Mr Speaker, I travelled in a car with other friends from Enugu to Onitsha. On the way we met a lorry driver in front of us. We got close by and sounded the horn all along for miles and miles until we managed to side track him and pull up in front of him. We then asked him why he was not willing to give way when we sounded our horn. Fortunately for us we had a police constable in the car. The police tried to check this driver and asked for particulars. The driver refused to surrender his driving licence because the police constable was not a Traffic policeman. We were a bit disturbed by that and from what the Mover of the Motion has said you could see if a special constabulary is established and they are given power to proceed with matters such as the case we met on the road it will be a different story.

Tractor drivers with heavy logs also indulge in carrying passengers and they go unlicensed. The vehicles are not licensed to carry

passengers and there was a special case of a tractor driver who took a number of passengers on his tractor. These included a woman and a child. As he was rounding a corner the woman dropped from the tractor and died. If the woman had not died no police would have known of it. It was because a woman died and the body taken to the Charge Office. That is just one of many cases, Mr Speaker.

The establishment of a Traffic Branch of the Special Constabulary which this Motion now seeks to introduce will, if accepted, certainly assist in checking traffic offences on the roads in areas where police posts are distant apart. Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name to leave out from "Constabulary" in line 4 to the end.

As I explained briefly to the hon. Mover of the Motion before the House met, the Government does indeed welcome this Motion and the only reason for the amendment is that there are already serving in the Special Constabulary a number of citizens whose ascertainable income is less than £300 a year and we would not wish them to feel that the House considered that no one was trustworthy unless he had an income over that amount because that would be a slight on many public-spirited citizens who are already giving up their time for this very valuable work in the Special Constabulary.

The Government does welcome very warmly and sincerely the spirit of public service that is shown by citizens who have joined the Special Constabulary. It would be unnecessarily fussy of me to take any exception to the words in the second line "Regular Branch" because there is no regular branch. Indeed one could hardly have a "regular" branch of the "Special" Constabulary. I think the hon. Member's intention is quite clear: he merely wishes to distinguish those who perform ordinary police duties from those whom he suggests should be given special traffic duties.

The Government does not welcome this spirit of public service without cause and I think the House will be interested to know that there are eight towns in the Federation with over one hundred Special Constables enrolled and there are seven more with over seventy.

It would be best, Sir, in speaking of the Special Constabulary, to speak of those in Lagos about which I know at first hand and can best inform the House.

The present strength of the Special Constabulary in Lagos is 394 and many of those attend very regularly and, indeed, in 1956 ten were commended by the Inspector-General for having 100 per cent attendance. Now, that is no small sacrifice of time because, as well as training, they have to put in three hours duty a week and the present arrangement in Lagos is that the Special Constabulary every Wednesday takes over four Police Stations in Lagos—at Denton Street, Suru Lere, Tinubu and Oke Suna—for six hours on Wednesday nights, in two shifts from 6 to 9 and from 9 to 12. So that means that a special constable, if he is going to put in 100 per cent attendance, has got to reconcile himself to the fact that, no matter how attractive may be the invitation to a social engagement on a Wednesday evening, he must turn it down and go out in all weathers to do duty, and it says a great deal for the public spirit of these gentlemen in Lagos that no fewer than ten of them had 100 per cent attendance and many more of them attend with great regularity.

The work that the Special Constabulary has done in Lagos does not probably come sufficiently to the notice of the public to earn the commendation that it deserves. But hon. Members may have seen them frequently on sporting and other public occasions, when they turn out and help, and that is in addition to the regular duties that they perform. The one who, I think, received the greatest publicity was the member of the Special Constabulary who not only apprehended a burglar but had the good fortune to apprehend a burglar who was breaking into the special constable's own house. Well, he was very properly commended by the Inspector-General for that and the case was reported in the local newspapers. But for those who get some publicity there are probably over 350 or so who do not get any publicity at all and the Government welcomes this opportunity of saying "Thank you" to them.

As to the main object of this Motion—that these gentlemen should now help with traffic duties: no one in this House could deny the need for some better form of traffic control. The hon. Mr Mariere has vividly described to us the

sort of thing that we all know happens on the roads and what is distressing about it is that we seem gradually to be coming to an acceptance of it. Although the matter is mentioned in indignant terms when motorists discuss this sort of thing amongst themselves, and although we hear about it in the House from time to time, there is no doubt that there is a tendency for people just to say they are used to it and just accept what comes. (*An hon. Member: Frustration!*) As the hon. Member said, Sir, there is frustration about it and I do sympathise with those who report offences and do not get any attention, and I hope to be able to arrange with the Inspector-General of Police to see that that happens less frequently in future.

I want to say one or two things about the need for traffic control which, at first sight, may appear to be obvious. We all know of the risk to human lives but my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Works, has considerable interest in this matter for it is a regrettable fact that, no sooner is a road improved and brought up to a reasonable standard in this country, than the process of destruction begins, with motor lorries, over-laden, tearing along at a ridiculously excessive speed. There are roads in this country where hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent but there is very little evidence of it, not because the work has not been well enough done but because no road could stand up to the sort of treatment that is being given to it. And, if one drives along and sees the objects on the side of the road—wrecks and "jam-burns", that is to say, those that have not only hit something but caught fire as well—one can see a considerable source of economic loss about which something must be done.

Another aspect of the matter to which attention has been drawn is that, in seeking to control traffic, the police expose themselves to temptation and that this particular form of police work has become unduly subject to cases of bribery and corruption. Now, too many hon. Members have mentioned this matter in this House for this not to be true and I am afraid it is true, as Chief Onyia said in moving his Motion, that this has lost the Nigeria Police a lot of prestige.

I think that, generally, the public is satisfied with the work of the Nigeria Police but it is not satisfied with what happens when they are put on to traffic control. Well, reference was made to some mention of this in the House in

August last and the Police have, as I have already told the House, made some progress in improving matters by removing the traffic control units from the peculiarly special position they formerly held and putting them under the disciplinary control of the officer in charge of the province in which they are stationed. The House has also helped at this Meeting by approving the provision of additional funds which will enable additional supervision to be given. But I do not think that we can accept the invitation of the hon. Member to remove temptation from boys altogether by saying, "Well, we mustn't put any young policemen on this because, if we do, they will take bribes." It is something that can be cured probably only gradually.

I am afraid that it probably is true that a lot of cases go undetected, or unpunished, because there has been some corrupt dealing to prevent their being brought to court and I do not think there is any ready solution to that. We can only keep plugging away at it and hope that the standard of conduct, both of the motor drivers themselves and of the policemen, will improve.

Now, that brings me to this question of frustration. It may well be that many of these people who take bribes would be less inclined to do so if they thought that they would be reported; many people who would report them are less inclined to do so because they know, from their own experience, or the experience of others, that, if they report, they will be put to a great deal of trouble and inconvenience and probably get no satisfaction. One thing that the new Inspector-General is very much alive to is the need for all police to listen responsively and responsibly to the complaints that are brought into the Police Stations.

An instance has recently been brought to his notice where perfectly responsible citizens had gone into a Police Station and had made some representations and they were dismissed in a very cavalier fashion by the N.C.O. in charge.

Well, I think that one can expect that there will be an improvement in that, because the Inspector-General is determined that there shall be an improvement; but we must look at the other side of the picture, and I am a little worried about Chief Onyia's suggestion that there should be a number of people, although they would bear identity cards, who would be empowered to check traffic offences on the road, and to cause the offenders to be summoned

before such Court as was most convenient to the Special Constable. Now, I am not certain whether if we were to do that we might not be opening the door to yet another form of oppression. We have been told by Mr Mariere, that one Constable in uniform got absolutely no respect at all from an offending lorry driver because the Policeman did not have a white top to his cap. I wonder how much response a Special Constable would get if he had nothing but a card, and I wonder how long it would be before somebody rose in this House to say that he represented the Motor Drivers' Union, who were being much humbugged by gentlemen producing cards and claiming to be Policemen who were not. So that there are difficulties both ways.

Now as to the use of uniformed Special Constables in traffic cases, there is one difficulty that deters the Police and that is that if a traffic Policeman is to be effective he must ensure that people who offend and who are detected in their offences are brought before the Court. That may mean that a businessman who serves as a Special Constable has not only to give up the three hours or whatever it is, on his regular day of duty, but has got to give up many hours, sometimes on three or four days, sitting about in a Court room waiting to give evidence in some traffic case, and that is a fact which has deterred the Police Authorities from making much use of Special Constables in traffic cases.

Those who serve in Lagos already do some traffic work. One of them last year not only saw a traffic offence that he was determined to bring to book, but was sufficiently determined about it to jump on to the running-board of the lorry at some risk to his own life and to bring the man to a halt and make certain that he was taken to Court, and for that he received the Inspector-General's commendation; but probably even if his physical courage enabled him to jump on to the running-board and arrest a man, and if his irritation with the man drove him on, his irritation with the law's delays in bringing the case to Court and bringing it to a conclusion, might have discouraged him from doing it another time. But the Inspector-General is going to see what can be done, possibly in conjunction with the Judicial Authorities, to see if some improvements can be effected.

So to sum up what the Government intends, Sir. The Government is very satisfied from

its experience, as it should be, that the Special Constables can be relied upon to do many branches of Police work, and I should add that all of them receive training. This is a further disadvantage of giving identity cards even to respectable citizens, that unless one is trained to be observant, it is only too easy to make mistakes about the motor vehicle's number or the time and place, and so forth, and so the inexperienced reporter of offences is sometimes not at all effective. However, the Government is satisfied that these Special Constables can be used for this purpose, and will try and find ways and means of making increasing use of them.

Again, irrespective of the Special Constables, those responsible for the Police are very much alive to the need to do something to improve the standard of traffic control, and I hope that when the House next discusses the matter, it will have less cause to complain about it.

I must not, Sir, offend against the rule about anticipation, but I would remind the House that we are to consider at this Meeting a Bill which I hope will be passed and which will enable women to serve as Special Constables, and it is also the Government's hope that later in this Session a Bill will be brought in which brings up to date the legislation about Special Constables, which I am afraid is very old-fashioned and very inappropriate at the present, and that the legal machinery to enable the Special Constables to serve the country will then match their enthusiasm and ability to do so.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport** (The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Sir, I beg to second.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr E. C. W. Howard**: Mr Speaker, although I am rising to support the Amendment, I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Mover of the Motion for making it possible to discuss this matter this morning, since we had not the opportunity of doing so under the Head of the Police Vote.

I think we are all agreed on the very great need for doing something to control the ever-increasing traffic not only on the Trunk A Roads but also in the towns, and particularly

in Lagos perhaps, where congestion is greater than almost anywhere else.

Unfortunately most of the traffic regulations are not observed and nowhere is that more evident than in the streets of Lagos. I may say, Sir, that when my driver drives me at 30 miles an hour on the Streets of Ikoyi and Lagos I am passed by practically everything on wheels except omolankes! (*Laughter*), and the result of all that is an increasing number of accidents, which in addition to the financial loss to which the Chief Secretary has referred, there is also the fact that insurance companies will have to increase their rates.

Anything that can be done to assist in increasing the effectiveness of all traffic control and resulting in fewer accidents, the better it will be for everyone concerned.

There is one last remark I would like to make. Unfortunately one observes that many drivers of the cars of hon. Members of this House are amongst the offenders. When we leave the House we can see cars racing away as if they were round Brooklands Race Track (*Laughter*)—at breakneck speed. I would ask the hon. Members of this House to endeavour to set a good example to the rest of the public.

**M. Yakubu Wanka** (Central Bauchi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion as amended. Sir, every person that has travelled in commercial lorries will no doubt support this Motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, bribery and corruption are so common among the people that any move by the Government to put an immediate stop to this practice will have the support of all sides of this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is surprising to see how some policemen become very rich within a very short time. Some of them live in very nice houses, drink as much beer as they can, and live very comfortably, despite the very low salaries they receive.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it has become a custom, at least in some parts of the Northern Region, that whenever lorry drivers go out they have to be given some money by their masters with which to bribe the police. I was an eye-witness about six years ago, when a policeman received a bribe from a lorry driver.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Did you tell the police?

**M. Yakubu Wanka**: Never mind. Sir, I repeat, any attempt by the Government to take

measures in order to reduce this evil to the minimum, will be wholeheartedly supported by all sides of this House. Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode** (Ifc): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion filed in this House by the hon. Chief Onyia. I am very happy that Chief Onyia has suggested that Members of this Legislature should be made Special Constables, especially that we shall not be supplied with uniforms. Sitting in this House, I can picture the hon. the Minister of Transport in his flowing garments and robes, standing as porter and directing the traffic. I have also pictured the hon. Chief Onyia himself, in his Federal gown, on a motor-cycle, chasing a lorry. (*Laughter*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I have pictured our father here, Chief Omolodun, measuring the ground after an accident, and the hon. the Deputy Speaker himself, chasing an absconding offender. And last of all, Sir, I am sure all of us can picture an hon. Member of the Council of Ministers who has the disapproval of this House, in the Orderly Room, answering the charge of rudeness to the members of the community.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): A point of explanation. Unless the hon. Fani-Kayode wants to be humorous—it is outside the track of my own submission in this House, and as I put it to this House, I am not asking that Special Constables should go on the road and direct transport.

**Mr Fani-Kayode**: I am afraid I cannot support the Motion any more.

**Mr C. O. Komojefe** (Ilesha): I rise to support the Amendment, Sir. I have just a few remarks to make about certain points. Many speakers have treated the subject of bribery and corruption prevailing amongst the police. I think it is due to the experience of Members and the general public that make us continue in this House to try and deal with the bribery and corruption that prevails. It is not particularly that we hate them, but we feel that if the Government can find a measure by which these gentlemen in uniform will be called to order, especially if it is possible for the Council of Ministers, or the Chief Secretary, for that matter, to arrange a way by which C.I.D. men were disguised and could go round the country, I think it would help.

I wish to give one instance. The question of licensing. Nowadays, we talk of the number of accidents happening on the road, but it would be astounding to people to hear that it is possible, now, for somebody who begins training as a driver, within a day or two to come back with a licence after he shall have paid about £20. That type of thing is not uncommon in places like Ibadan, and all the chief cities of the Western, Eastern and Northern Regions; and then to take that type of offence, I feel the Government should do something about it. If you are going on the road, you cannot get a policeman to take money from the lorry driver—he does not do it—they have agents. An agent sits there, with a bag, and when he sees the policeman go towards the driver, he makes some move, and walks over to him. And then you see the driver coming out of the lorry to go to the agent, who takes the money from him. So that by putting the traffic policemen on the road, it appears we are defeating our own ends. Instead of checking the offences, I think it is increasing them, because when the driver offers money to a policeman, he comes half-heartedly, he does not bother. Tomorrow he is to take another amount of money. He doesn't bother to observe the road regulations, or things of that sort.

If the Government can do something by which the C.I.D. can go round once in a while to check, and to apprehend these chief offenders, will be very useful.

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama** (Central Area): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion as amended. There is no doubt whatsoever that Special Constables are rendering a very useful service to the country and its people. In Zaria, Sir, where a branch of the Special Constabulary has been established, and happen to be one of them, I can say that Special Constables are doing whatever jobs are assigned to them to help the public.

With traffic offences growing from strength to strength (and we are told that our traffic policemen are too few to check these offences effectively) I certainly cannot see any alternative to ask that Special Constables be asked to assist. I am sure they will be quite willing to do so, and they will help to the best of their ability. Sir, I beg to support.

**T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it will be wrong in principle to classify all these officers as an army of

corrupt people. Some of them may be bad, but I think it is the duty of every citizen to arrest any person or police officer found committing a crime. I think it will help the country as a whole if those people who are complaining here that they have some agents who collect money—for example if you arrest one or two of them on the spot that will stop some other officers who are used to such bad, illegal traffic duty which they are doing.

At the same time I support this Motion, and may be that may help us to improve the police vehicle inspection officers, because, both in Lagos here and Ibadan, it takes some lorries or vehicles about three or four days before the police officer will have time to inspect them.

Further, we may extend these special officers to cover special policewomen provided that they allow them to end duty by twelve o'clock midnight and not to work after that because at present I understand that some of the policewomen in Lagos work after midnight, which I do not think is good.

Mr Speaker, Sir, while supporting the amendment, I move that the question be now put.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Well, I do not intend to prolong the debate, but I have just one observation to make. Both the original Motion and the amendment do agree, and they would achieve the same objective. There is, however, one virtue in the amendment, and that is it has widened considerably the field of choice of men for the special traffic constabulary.

But I would appeal to the Government not to use a Motion like this, which, I am sure will be accepted by all sections of the House, in order to perpetuate a source of cheap labour. Get special constabulary wherever you can get them from, but for goodness sake let us strengthen the regular members of the Police Force who are in the Traffic Section. The position at the present moment is most unsatisfactory. It does not mean that our special constables are not working; they are, and we all join the Chief Secretary in paying tribute to them for their public spiritedness, but we have no right to ride a willing horse to death.

During the time of crises I agree we should draw from the patriotic fervour of members of our community, but in peace-time do not let us count on voluntary effort altogether. Let us increase the number of men in our

Police Force, men in the Traffic Section, so that they may be able to check the various offences to which members have made reference.

I do not know whether the traffic policemen do work at night at all anywhere in Nigeria. You can start driving—at nightfall say from 7 p.m. until about 8 a.m. the following morning, drive from any part of the Western Region to the North, or to the East, without coming across a single member of the Traffic Police on the road, and a lot of the offences, many of the offences are being committed at night. I have no figures, but I am quite sure from my own limited experience of what happens on the roads that a large proportion of road accidents occur at night. I would appeal to the Government to increase the number of the regular police force, so that they may be able to work not only during the daytime, but also during the night.

It is possible that the special constabulary may be able to work within urban areas, like Lagos, or Onitsha, or Kano, or Kaduna for that matter, but it will be stretching the matter too far to expect a Special Constable to go and work on highways in the bush. Well, he will not have the time to do it, and secondly he would be opening himself to a lot of suspicion if even he ventures to do it. Let these men work in the towns, so that they may give opportunity to the regulars to be able to work in the bush.

Much has been said about bribery and corruption on the highways. Well, it seems to me that the whole thing is a question of faith, and we must continue to pray so that perhaps the covetous nature of man may be brought under some control. Our highways are absolutely corrupt, but I am not blaming the police alone because it takes two to make a bargain; if we do not offer there will be nothing for the police to receive. It is therefore a matter of educating our community generally, and not of putting the blame altogether on members of the Police Force.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, as a person who has some experience in the day-to-day administration of our present traffic rules and regulations, I wish to say this, Sir, that it is not enough charging the present agents of the Administration with corruption. But I feel, Sir, that the administration of the law and regulations relating to traffic offences

should be completely investigated with a view to a change. The offences are so multifarious, and even standing still and saying nothing you can commit an offence, but the unfortunate thing, Sir, is that with the average driver on the highway he has got one of two evils to choose at all times. If the magistrate becomes severe, it is a very good avenue for making money for the police. If he becomes lenient, it is a cause for the most flagrant violation of rules and regulations of traffic law. Something has got to be done about it. The average driver apprehended on the highway, if there is any suspicion whatsoever and he is taken to court he will be liable to a fine of £10, will be prepared to give £1 to the police and finish with it all.

And, besides, the endorsement on their licences go a long way to compel them to resort to the very deplorable method of corruption. So, Sir, while we might, as occasional users of the highways, deplore a good many of these things, we have also to consider the fact that no matter how many policemen you send to jail in one day the drivers whose livelihood depend on their licences and the endorsements are not very willing to co-operate with you in your higher ideals with the law as it stands at the moment.

It is a very good matter to decide on the spot what to do about it, but it is unfortunate because as the present position goes no amount of sermonising will help the situation. The drivers are scared stiff. You go to court; the magistrate is very keen on knowing how many endorsements have been made on your licence and that in itself adds to the gravity of your sentence. And also, Sir, the endorsements themselves on the licences have no encouraging prospects for of an unemployed professional driver to obtain employment.

So, Sir, we deplore corruption, we deplore everything that goes to increase the dangers of the highway but, all the same, Sir, I think the cause of the safety on the road in this country will be very well served if the Government, in addition to this Amendment to this Motion, also considers very seriously an investigation into the present Highway Code, the Highway Rules and Regulations, with a view to making it possible that nobody should gain from continuous and irregular contravening of our laws.



**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with part of what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said in the course of this Debate.

I do agree, Sir, that the Special Constabulary has done a great deal of work for which we must be very grateful to them. I certainly agree that, in order to combat the evil that we have always complained of in the Traffic Police, we must strengthen the Traffic Police. I do agree also that something has got to be done in order to improve upon the system of checking the evil that has been going on.

What we must face is this—although there has been a lot of bribery and corruption and we have been told often and again in this honourable House, that it takes two people in order to make this corruption possible, we must realise that something has gone wrong on both sides. It is not the Police alone that are at fault, the drivers themselves are at fault. Why? Mr Speaker, Sir, often and again people are reluctant to go and have their lorries examined; they do not want to go and get the appropriate documents but they want, at the same time, to go out and get some money on these lorries, the result is that often when they go out to their lorries not examined and not with the proper or appropriate documents, they will be at the mercy of the Traffic Police and you can imagine the sort of thing that will have to happen then. So, if we really want to do away with that sort of thing, the first thing we have got to do is to educate the masses and make them realise how important it is to get all these documents.

Another thing is that sometimes drivers get their lorries loaded, they want to get as much money as they can within a very short time and if they meet the Traffic Police, the only way they can escape is to try to bribe them. They bribe them because they want to get away; their lorries are over-loaded. This sort of over-loading sometimes becomes the cause of fatal accidents in this country. So if these lorry drivers had not over-loaded their lorries, they would not have given the Police any bribe and there wouldn't have been any fatal accident at all.

Let us, therefore, face facts. We agree, Sir, that there has been a lot of corruption with the lorry. Here again, I must say that there must be constant checking, constant supervi-

sion by Senior Officers, so that each time any Traffic Police are out working on the highways, they may be surprised. Constant check on the Traffic Police; that, I think, will help to eradicate this evil to a very great extent. So let us resolve, therefore, right from now that we will tell the masses to co-operate and we too will co-operate and let us ask the Government, at the same time, to see to it that there are more Supervisory Officers that will be checking the Traffic Police Officers on the highway.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): 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 words proposed to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.*

*Main Question, as Amended, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That this House welcomes the spirit of public service shown by members of the Special Constabulary (Regular Branch) and acknowledges their contributions to the maintenance of law and order and accordingly calls upon the Government to consider as a matter of urgency the establishment of a traffic branch of the Special Constabulary.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

#### HELICOPTER SERVICES

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, which reads as follows: That this House calls upon the Federal Government to consider the immediate introduction of a network of helicopter services as a means of facilitating access to inaccessible parts of the country and for rendering assistance to hospitals and other deserving cases in times of emergency.

To avoid confusion, Sir, the Motion neither portrays itself as a mandated order, or a command to get helicopters forthwith, but as a humble prayer, praying the Government to consider, and that, Sir, I feel is adequately expressed in the Motion. We pray the Government to consider the introduction of a net-work of helicopters as a means of facilitating access to inaccessible parts of the country,

and also to render assistance to hospitals and other deserving cases in times of emergency.

Now, Sir, the simple reason for the wording of the Motion is this, that any opposition to this Motion is a downright statement that one is not prepared to consider it. There is a very substantial difference between the word "consider" and "execute". We are not begging the Federal Government to introduce a service of this kind immediately, but we are begging them to consider it. The Government is perfectly at liberty to consider, and on the other hand, it is perfectly at liberty to reject. I wish to make this point abundantly clear that I am praying them to consider the immediate introduction of this service.

Sir, what is a helicopter?

**An hon. Member:** I don't know.

**Mr Akwivu:** It is a machine that might not very well be known to the hon. Chief T. T. Solaru, but I want to assure him that if he were to take a trip in one, he would come to appreciate these machines.

Sir, we have got helicopters in this country, now, in operation; they are operated by what we might call private concerns. Sir, a helicopter can be readily and easily described as being the latest innovation in the art of flying. It is simple machine and it is one that lends itself to attraction, a gadget with a propeller on the top of it, and it has the unique characteristic of being able to rise and fall perpendicularly.

Unlike the aeroplane or unlike the car it can manoeuvre itself even within the space of the parlour of the Rev. the hon. T. T. Solaru.

Sir, the Motion suggests that it would be a very useful thing in cases of hospital emergencies. Not long ago, Sir, we were privileged to take note of an occasion in which a helicopter was used in aid of some very needy hospital emergency. It would be a very useful thing, Sir, for carrying drugs from places where they are mixed to places where they are very urgently needed within the shortest possible time and before a situation degenerates to hopelessness.

Sir, it will also afford the opportunity and possibility of carrying about our very rare and highly respected and jealously guarded medical talents from where they exist in abundance to where they are non-existent and the services are most needed and valuable. And also,

Sir, it is not unknown that there are some hospitals that are very difficult to approach throughout the 12 months of the year. There are some hospitals in some places, they are not very easily accessible by water and by road, their roads are only open for about six months of the year. If we have these helicopters, Sir, they can fly in very very convenient spots carrying supplies and drugs that are necessary landing at within no more extensive places than the flower garden of the hospital, to supply them their needs.

Sir, in the case of facilitating access, this is a matter which should readily commend itself to the imagination of the Members of this House. There are places in this Federation, Sir, that have no roads at all. There are places with only seasonal roads, open to traffic for anything, say, from four to six months and no more in the year, and there are places surrounded by lagoons but the water traffic is not only tedious but risky. Sir, these places can do with some alternative means of traffic access.

Now, one could readily say that, if water and land fail, the air can serve. But the traditionally accepted means of air traffic is by the aeroplane. That, Sir, calls for a very well constructed runway, constructed over some very large area of land, and not merely land but land of a suitable character and quality. In some parts of the country you cannot find land of that sort. So that really the helicopter, a very wonderful and new invention, would come in as a timely and very valuable relief to these our brethren who are heirs to very inconvenient and very unfavourable type of land.

Sir, there are several advantages to be gained from the use of helicopters. As I have said, Sir, it requires no runway and as a matter of fact what it will cost to construct a runway will be enough to buy a helicopter. And besides, Sir, what it will cost to maintain a ground staff and all the workmen necessary to guide the aeroplane to land safely could easily go into the purchase of a humble helicopter with a carrying capacity of 10, 12, 24 passengers.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu West): Where? What helicopter?

**Mr Akwivu:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would be prepared to invite the hon. Solaru and pay his travel expenses to Port Harcourt for him

to see a helicopter in service carrying passengers. I am in no way disappointed that a man residing at Ijebu will not have the privilege of seeing a helicopter at work. Ibadan has not had the privilege of having them. But we, with the successful prospect, have not only seen them, but have seen them in their latest form. (Applause) I ask leave of the Speaker to educate Chief Solaru to understand that we have seen the latest of these things. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, the cost of constructing a road through the massive Niger Delta area would go into purchasing several helicopters for the useful services of this country, and I commend it, Sir, and I do not only commend it in my own words, but in the words of all those who have gone to the very large extent of inviting the Headquarters of the United Nations and the World Bank. They have seen the wisdom; they have advised us and I am sure the Government is taking the advice in good part and following it up as quickly as it can.

Sir, there have been clamours for many new air-fields, new ones to be opened in this country. But reckoning with the expenses of constructing the runways, maintaining them and keeping the ground staff and the great speed of the aeroplane, Sir, I feel that it is a thing that commends itself that we should also think in terms of means of transport that would also do in the air and at the same time serve as a very useful, very economical supporter to the air services we have now in the country.

The helicopter, Sir, will operate economically in this country. It will cover conveniently shorter spaces than the aeroplane can cover within very close range. It can conveniently do a distance of 40 miles between Aba and Port Harcourt, 40 miles between Port Harcourt and Owerri, and other distances between Owerri, Onitsha and Enugu, and that in saying so I am not only restricting myself to the Eastern Region, but it will also operate effectively within comparatively near distances in other parts of this country. I am only using that as an illustration. The distance between Ibadan and Ijebu will be uneconomical for an aeroplane but it will be most economical for the operation of a helicopter. I am putting this as a challenge to those who are jealous that they have not brought this idea themselves. It would not cost them their next election

if they will accept this thing and not heckle unnecessarily.

The Opposition has always challenged the Government of the Federation for not taking the initiative in anything they will show to their constituencies. I am putting it to them that if they accept this they will go home to their constituency—to Ijebu West, Ijebu Waterside—to tell them that the Government of this Federation has taken their convenience into consideration and has gone to the very great expense of providing them with the most modern of world travelling facilities.

We have been crying for better postal services. I venture to suggest that if we have helicopters in our regular service they will not only pay commercially but they will also hasten postal facilities which we always cry for. The Member for Ijebu Waterside will no longer cry and say that it takes a letter twenty days from Lagos to Ijebu Waterside. Letters will get from Lagos to Ijebu Waterside in thirty minutes.

I think, Sir, it will be a very profitable scheme and as I have said before we are only inviting the Government to consider (not to go and buy ten of them tomorrow) to consult their experts. We know that before you ever embark upon a service like this you have got to consult your traffic surveyor to find out whether the population, passenger and traffic prospects would make it a paying concern. We want the Government to consider this. We also want the Government to consider the engineering difficulties. What we are asking is that they should realise that this matter has become one which Members of this House feel should be explored with a view to seeing what can be done.

Before I go on to finance for this project I just want to read, with your permission, the views of the International Bank Mission on this matter: "There are twenty-eight airports and landing grounds in Nigeria, including the international airports of Lagos and Kano, the latter being an important transit port. We see no need for additional airports." It goes on to say: "Nigeria is adequately served by the present method of airfields with the exception of the Niger-Delta where the terrain does not permit the economical construction of an airfield. The future use of helicopters may provide economical transportation for the area." What more do we want? I am begging the

Federal Government to consider and investigate engineering and traffic prospects with a view to telling this House what is the latest proposal.

Financing may well be another matter that can be discussed but I am quite sure that the sources from which we get our capital are not dried up. According to the Minister of Transport last year or the year before it cost £30,000 to construct a mile of the railway. If it costs £30,000 to construct one single mile of railway the helicopter cannot cost more than two or three times this amount. It will cost much less. Ninety miles of Trunk A road will be extended this year. We have got a generous grant of £1.8 million from Her Majesty's Government. All this money is available. The money saved in our war bonds and things. What more do we want? I respectfully say that this scheme should commend itself to the Federal Government to consider the possibilities of introducing it.

I beg to move.

Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende): Mr Speaker, in rising to second this Motion it is needless my remarking that the Motion speaks for itself. It is quite clear as is seen from the wording of the Motion. I have only to mention first and foremost the geographical factors that commend this Motion to the sympathetic consideration of this House. The size of Nigeria is very enormous being some 372,674 sq. miles. It is impossible at present for the railway to reach every part of the country. In most parts of Nigeria there is not even an inch of motor road. Furthermore, in some parts of the country there are frightful hills lying between towns through which motor transport can reach the various parts. So that many towns exist in isolation.

Again, in the Creek areas of the country such motor roads as exist up country are absent and communication is very slow. There is no doubting the fact that it is very essential that every part of Nigeria should be accessible. In all these various geographical difficulties I have outlined above the one obvious remedial measure is the immediate introduction of helicopter services. Already the Shell BP Company has shown sufficiently the need for the use of helicopters in Nigeria and there can be no harm in the Federal Government following suit.

Mr Speaker, the hon. the Mover has exhausted the points I would otherwise like to touch

upon. I would only like to summarise the advantages of the introduction of helicopter services. First, they will help to solve the sad situation of inaccessibility particularly for the Government officials and our Ministers of State. The accessibility of the inaccessible part of the country will strengthen the oneness of Nigeria. Helicopter services will help tremendously in cases of emergency, as has been mentioned by the hon. Mover, particularly when it is imperative to employ the quickest means of ensuring immediate relief.

With these few points I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kola Balogun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to take the opportunity of this Motion to say one or two things about what Government has done in respect of the spirit of this Motion. I wish to say, Sir, that the Ministry of Communications and Aviation has already two light planes for the carrying of mail for the North. The planes have arrived. (Applause) but at present the Ministry is expecting the arrival of pilots for the planes and as soon as these pilots arrive it will be possible to put the scheme into motion. As they are planning for the North so also they have programmes for other parts of the country.

But hon. Members will agree with me that it is absolutely necessary that when you are tackling a project of this magnitude you should proceed in as humble and mild a manner as possible. Not only will other parts of the country be served but particular attention will be paid to the Creek areas, and the point made by the hon. the Mover about the International Bank Mission Report has not escaped the attention of the hon. the Minister of Communications and Aviation. So that it will be seen by the House that Government is already giving most active consideration to the spirit of this Motion.

But the lawyer that is in the hon. Mover has come out in this House and has played on the words "to consider" and he says that the operative phrase in this Motion is "to consider". With due respect I want to say that the phrase which is most operative is not "to consider" but is the phrase "the immediate introduction of a network of helicopter services." Now, Sir, Members will find that the implications of that are much more onerous than the hon.

Mover wishes this House to understand—(In hon. Member: It takes a lawyer to catch a lawyer)—and, in that respect, Mr Speaker, I wish to say that the introduction of a network of helicopter services in Nigeria would not be an economic proposition at the present stage of development of this particular type of aircraft. The initial cost of helicopters is high; a four-seater helicopter of American design, built under licence in the United Kingdom, costs approximately £28,000 and the British counterpart design in the neighbourhood of £36,000. A larger helicopter, capable of carrying about six passengers and a limited amount of luggage costs in the neighbourhood of £50,000. The operation of this type of aircraft is restricted and the services of specially trained pilots and maintenance engineers are necessary owing to the peculiar characteristics of the aircraft and, due to the method of propulsion by rotators, the maintenance is also costly.

At the present time Nigeria has a network of internal air services employing small passenger carrying aircraft. As members are aware there are regular services to fifteen airports and aerodromes in Nigeria and there are also another eight aerodromes which can be used by charter services. In addition in the Northern Region there are twenty small landing strips which are used by the light passenger carrying aircraft of the Northern Region Communications Flight and the light aircraft of the Sudan Interior Mission, who undertake commendable work in the medical missionary field by carrying sick persons to hospital by air and transporting medical supplies to remote parts of the territory. The helicopter is still in the development stage and it would be more economic and a more practical proposition to introduce a network of light passenger carrying aircraft. It is true that in the Eastern Region a considerable amount of oil exploration work is undertaken with the aid of helicopters. This work is, however, very costly and cannot be recommended at the present development stage of the helicopter as a regular means of transporting passengers and mail in the territory.

As I said, Mr Speaker, it would be a very easy matter only "to consider" because Government is always considering every possible aspect of social services in this country. But, as the hon. Member himself knows, to accept a Motion of this nature, which has far-reaching implications—"the immediate intro-

duction of a network of helicopter services"—is perhaps stretching the proposition too far for the moment, because you have to consider these things in connection with other requirements of the other Ministries, other departments and other services in this country, and you ought to bear in mind that we have an Economic Programme and it is not easy to come to this House every now and again and chuck new projects into the Economic Programme.

In view of this, Mr Speaker, I hope that my hon. Friend has achieved his objective in bringing this Motion to the House—which, I think, is to get information about what Government is doing and what Government proposes to do in furtherance of this scheme—and I hope he will be good enough to withdraw this Motion, after having aired his views, and I hope that it will not be necessary for Government to oppose it. I know that he will be good enough to withdraw.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. the Mover of this Motion has opened himself to ridicule: not that he tried to bring some relief to the inaccessible areas of this country but from the very fact of the faint-hearted way in which he moved it and the little hope of its success which he obviously had. He wanted it to be so much that one wonders why he brought it at all.

If he was talking about the inaccessible parts of this country one would have expected that he would plead for more roads—for roads to get to them; if he is talking about the waterside areas—the Creek areas—he might talk about water craft. But to go on talking about helicopters, just because he has seen one hovering over his home somewhere in the Eastern Region—well, that is why I said he must try the "grasshopper" transport because that might be cheaper.

Sir, it is the unrealistic nature of this Motion, and the very fact that it can be brought to the Floor of this House when we are so pressed for time—that is why I object to this Motion: because it is unrealistic. He talked about some areas being uneconomic—well, of course, he should have gone to Mr Mbakogu's school for economics, otherwise he would know that—

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu):** The word "unrealistic" is not there!

**Mr Speaker:** That is not a point of order: it is a point of debate.

**Chief Solaru:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was saying that the hon. Member could have gone to Mr Mbakogu's school for some lecture on economics. Now that he has heard that the cheapest helicopter, carrying as few as four passengers, is going to cost between £20-30,000, perhaps he will realise how unrealistic is his demand, or request, that we should cover this country with a network of helicopter services.

It would appear that he was trying to do good to inaccessible areas and hospitals but I wonder what part of this country would have hospitals with no road access to them? Now, that is one of these things that hang in the air—these things that sound so well but have no firm foundation.

Well, it seems to me, Sir, that the Government will rescue us from people who bring this kind of Motion to the House, merely to waste the time of the House. Of course, we oppose.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu):** Sir, I should just like to tell the hon. Member that we have hospitals in Brass with no roads to them at all. But I have no doubt, Sir, that the subject matter that was behind this Motion has been noted and I just wish to say that I am glad that the Government has taken note of my remarks.

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

#### DAMAGE TO YAM CROPS BY BEETLES

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name: That this House expresses deep sympathy to the farmers as a result of damage done by beetles to their yam crops and asks the Minister of Research and Information to make available to these farmers the results of experiments so far carried out.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this Motion is quite clear.

The first is to express the sympathy of this House with the farmers at home whom we represent here over national agricultural calamities of last year, particularly to yam crops.

Last year there was a heavy damage to yams by an insect called beetle. It was nation-wide, wherever people in this country farm the crop called yam. At first, I thought it was only in my own Division that the damage occurred. Afterwards I learned through the papers and

through the cry of Obi, Amobi II of Ogidi, when he opened his attack on the Government to do something to ease the situation which was facing the farmers.

The second purpose of this Motion, Sir, is to invite the Government to do something tangible to help these farmers to check further appalling devastations to yam crops in the current year. If damage was done last year and something is not done to check it, there will be further inroads into the yam crops, and the farmers will interpret it to mean that the Government is not taking any interest in their welfare.

Times without number in this House Members have cried a lot that the Government is forgetting the rural areas. Farming is the occupation of those who live in the rural areas, and if Government will do something to come to their rescue in this calamity it will be very much appreciated.

I have mentioned that the destruction was nation-wide and that has brought about shortage of yams, and the farmers also have lost one of their sources of income from which they get earnings to pay their taxes. I know they must pay their taxes, of course, but it will not be without hardship. Seed yams were destroyed and big yams were also destroyed.

When I visited my Division after the August Session last year, I was taken round to the barns of farmers who showed me heaps of yams which were altogether useless. They were hollow here and there, so that there was nothing actually to be taken out of so many of them. I have mentioned the economic effect which it brought and which could be described as poor food production. We all know that food is an important element in the existence of human beings. As the beetle has destroyed one of the sources of income of the farmers they have had to cry to the Members of this House, and through them, to the Government to bring them a relief.

Last August I asked a question in this House about this yam beetle damage. I asked whether the Minister was aware of what happened and whether any step had been taken to investigate it, and what had been the decision of the Minister with regard to helping the people to stamp out the cause of damage to their yams. The Minister replied: "Experiments have been proceeding since 1950 on possible insecticidal control of yam beetles (*Heteroligus species*)

with some promise of success. This year experiments are in progress in all Regions and in the Eastern Region are sited at Nnobi, Oba and Ozubulu in Onitsha Province and at Bodo in Rivers Province. Satisfactory reductions in the amount of damage done have been obtained by treating seed yams before planting with various insecticides. At present the most effective insecticide is a dust containing 0.45 per cent Gamma BHC. Experiments are now in progress to test other insecticides in the hope of finding one which is cheaper, more effective and in other ways suitable for recommending to farmers."

When that question was answered last year there were supplementary questions from all sides of the House—from the West, the East and some parts of the North—and we did not receive any satisfactory answer. The Minister said here that the results of the experiments which had been conducted in the past would be made available to the farmers, and that new sources of treatment were on hand. But I can assure the Minister that in my own Division nothing has been done at all and this is the planting season. People are already planting their yam crops and if the seed yams are not treated—according to the reply the Minister gave last year—it means that the whole thing will occur again. While this destruction is still undergoing another type of experiment which will be cheaper and more effective I would advise the Minister that my Division wants him to convey to them the results of the previous experiment which concerned treating seed yams before planting.

We were told that the results would be conveyed to the Agricultural Department of the Regions. I do not think that if those results had been made available to the Agricultural Department of the Eastern Region my own Division would have failed to receive any amount of sympathy. Therefore I am asking the Minister to remember that he himself comes from a rural area. We have very few things which directly concern the rural areas. A number of these things do concern them, but they do not know that these things concern them in one way or another, and this particular case of destruction of their source of income and livelihood should be treated with the urgency and attention that it deserves.

I hope that the Minister will not fail the rural areas in this case. He should do everything possible to help them by heeding their cries and making available to them the results of the experiments so far carried out. I am sure that if this step is not effective these people will not quarrel with the Minister if he promises that he will give them a more effective and a cheaper result in due course.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second. Yam is to us as potatoes are to the English people. It may not occur to many Members that yam is a staple food to us in Yorubaland. It is from yam that we derive what we call *Iyan* or pounded yam. As a matter of fact, the Government has given far too much attention to cash crops such as cocoa and palm produce with neglect for our food crops. If one has money and does not have food, I wonder how one will be able to exist. One cannot swallow one's money.

Sir, the Government seems to forget that there are many parts of the land of this country not suitable for cocoa growing. In my own father's farm there are about twenty acres of land not good for cocoa production. And to-day we are told of a kind of worm or beetle that has been causing ravages to yams. We are asking in this Motion, Sir, that the Government should come to the rescue of the poor farmers living in the rural areas. I hope that the results of the experiment that has been going on in the Ministry of Research and Information will bring a direct and favourable impact on the labours of the farmers in the rural areas.

So that we want the Government to adopt this Motion, and at the same time to allow us to operate by coming to the rescue of the farmers. The beetles are doing a lot of damage to the crops, and the farmers whose main work is yam farming are becoming discouraged. If we encourage the growing of yams and provide for a means of checking these pests that are causing damage to the yam products, it will increase the growth of yam, and at the same time decrease the cultivation of garri—because garri has really not much nutritious value. (Interruption.).....

So many health officers have decried the eating of garri. The high percentage of calories in yam is not to be compared with

what you get from other root crops, like cassava. So that if you give encouragement to the farmers to grow more yams on their farms, definitely the cultivation of the country will improve, and not only improve, but it will help the farmers to be able to play their parts, because lots of farmers in the rural areas depend on the amount of money they earn from the yams produced on their farms, to pay their taxes, annually.

So that we wish the Government will not reject this Motion, we wish they will accept it, but at the same time put into operation what we demand in the Motion.

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

Question proposed.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun): I rise to move the Amendment on the Order Paper, To leave out from "Experiments" to the end and add "As soon as these have been satisfactorily concluded." The effect of this Amendment, Mr Speaker, will more or less meet the wish of the Mover of this Motion. The only difference is that as the hon. Mover wishes, we want to do good to the farmers; we don't want, by any hasty action, to do any harm to them. I remember the usual saying, that you should rather be fair than generous, if you can help it. The text to which this Motion refers is the matter of the yam beetle. This pest has, in fact, been receiving the attention of the Federal Department of Agricultural Research in co-operation with the Western Region Department of Agriculture for some time.

In May last year, the laboratories Superintendent of the Entomological Branch of the Federal Department of Agricultural Research, visited Asaba with the farmers on the spot, regarding emergency measures, and prior to that, experimental work on the control of this pest has already been put in hand. The experiments relate to the use of various insecticides applied to the seed germs at planting. One series of experiments is being undertaken by the Federal Research Department in the Onitsha Division, and I understand that a similar series is being laid down by the Western Department of Agriculture in Benin Province. The experiments have given encouraging results, but it is considered desirable that this should be confirmed by

further tests during the next yam season, by the end of which, however, it should be possible to issue a definite statement on the subject.

The House will recall that this matter was referred to by Chief J. I. G. Onyia, the Member for Asaba, in the House on the 7th March, and I have been explaining to him that while I fully sympathise with his impatience for any relief, research in a matter of this sort will not be followed beyond the pace of nature itself. This is, of course, the position, and it will be readily appreciated that premature advice to the farmers to take measures based on inadequate investigation may well do more damage than the pest itself. I cannot, therefore, promise immediate relief, but I can and will assure the Mover of the Motion that the Department of Agricultural Research will continue to give the matter its urgent attention, and as soon as any reasonably safe conclusions have been achieved, will make the results of the experiments known as widely as possible, with the co-operation of the Regional Agricultural Departments.

Mr Speaker, I wish to take advantage of this Motion to mention to the House that there is a system whereby some of these things can be achieved. It is quite proper to bring some of these requests to this hon. House, but I want to point out that the people who are most and largely concerned with this matter, in the first instance, are the Regional Agricultural Department, and we have an elaborate system of collaboration with the Regions on this matter, through so many technical committees, and then they have the Council of Natural Resources. This Council meets at least once a year, and we have opportunity of examining problems from all parts of the Federation, including the Cameroons. But I want to emphasise the point that; it is not only yam that we are interested in with regards to the future of the crop, but also in things like corn. If you go to Moor Plantation at Ibadan, you will find that we are trying there to find out how we can get a better variety of corn, and the same at Badeggi; we are trying to find better varieties of rice, and the rest of it. At Badeggi, more than 300 species of rice have been experimented upon.

I want to say that everything is being done by the Agricultural Department, particularly at Moor Plantation, to see that help is given to the Agricultural Department, but in the first

instance it is the Agricultural Departments of the Regions who can be of immediate benefit in this respect. What we get by means of research we pass on to them, and it is these people who go to the farms to work with the farmers, and it is only natural to expect that this type of relationship will be kept up.

So I want to assure the hon. Members that the Government is sympathetic with the people who are suffering from this yam beetle, but like everything that has to do with nature, it is not easy to cure it overnight. I hope that the hon. Mover will accept this Amendment to the Motion, because that will go a long way to satisfy his objective. Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): I beg to second.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, what I had wanted to say has actually been covered by the hon. the Minister. It is this that I wanted just to give the Mover of the Motion a little bit of my experience in that some time last year some members of my constituency complained about these yam beetles destroying their yams. I got in touch with the Agricultural Officer in charge of the Province, and all at once the Agricultural Officer took up the matter and started with experiments which benefitted the people.

So I think that instead of coming here to waste the time of this House by bringing this type of Motion this man should have taken up the matter with the Agricultural Officer in charge of his Province. If he has failed then he could have come to this House. Mr Speaker, that is what I wanted to point out.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Speaker, it is a pity that some Members here are intolerant. Because all men think, all men mutter or themselves. When certain people are suffering in certain parts of the country I think other people ought to be sympathetic.

I support the amendment and, in doing so, wish to make certain observations. The observations are these. I realise that the Agricultural Department has been in existence in this country for over forty years, and we are told that the Agricultural Department has been making experiments on local crops all through these years. There were occasions when public opinions were raised against the

Agricultural Department that the department was not accessible to the ordinary farmers and the reply we had all along was that this department was making experiments. It would appear that the experiments that have been going on all along these years have not been fruitful of results, so that when beetles have attacked our yams, or any other insects have attacked our crops, the Agricultural Department has no remedy. It is still embarking upon experiments. This would have been an opportunity and a time that the Agricultural Department would be able to give us the benefit of what they had derived from their past experience.

We are prepared to accept the explanation of the Minister of Research and Information, but we wish to make it known that this research had started even before the Federal Government came into existence. It started even at the time the Government of Nigeria was run under unitary form of Government.

We have not got this Motion here with a view to blame the Federal Government, or with a view to deprive the Regional Governments of their authority. But it is with a view that we may be able to find out whether the Federal Government had already inherited some experience of the past governments to help the poor farmers at this stage. And we have satisfied ourselves now in realising that the Federal Government as now constituted has inherited practically nothing from the old governments.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Point of explanation, Sir. I am sorry, I think that the hon. Member will have to withdraw that later on because that will not be fair to all the governments of this country over the years. I do not think there is any thing in my speech which has suggested that we have not inherited anything from the knowledge of the previous governments. Rather, Sir, I said that in connection with this particular case of the yam beetle the knowledge which has been acquired and which is growing from day to day cannot yet be released because it is unwise at the present time to do so. (*Interruption.* Chief Onyia resumes his seat).

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order! Has Chief Onyia finished his speech or not?

**Chief Onyia**: No, Sir. I was about to wind up. Well, I withdraw the remark I made.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE IN  
EASTERN REGION

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad to hear the Minister of Research and Information explaining to this House that research is being done in the Regions. But, Sir, when that is so, why do we have to vote such a huge sum of money for agricultural research?

**The Minister of Research and Information**: Point of explanation, Sir. I am sorry, it seems as if some of the things I said this morning were not heard. I am sorry about that, but I never said anything about research being done exclusively by the Regions. What I have told this hon. House this morning is that we have collaboration with the Regions in research matters. We have technical committees, on top of which is the Council for Natural Resources, and that it meets from time to time to co-ordinate research activities in Nigeria. That is what I have said, Sir.

**Mr Adeniran**: Mr Speaker, Sir, why the hon. the Minister of Research and Information has explained this I do not understand. The point is that if the Federal Government is not going to undertake any research, I appeal to the Government to transfer the money which is now being voted to the Regions.

**Several hon. Members**: He has not said so.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Well, I think I agree wholeheartedly with the Minister and I would have just a word of solace to those who have been the victims of these ferocious beetles. From the argument on the Floor of this House it seems that the war has been very, very serious one, but we have one consolation, that the attack of the beetles has not been quite as devastating as we have been led to believe. If yam, which is the principal diet of hon. Komolafe, is the victim of these beetles, I think that the very person of the hon. Member is an ocular proof that the beetle has not won the battle. He is the personification of the proof of the nutritious value of *Iyan*, which is made from yam.

*Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.*

*Proposed words there added.*

*Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.*

**Resolved**, That this House expresses deep sympathy to the farmers as a result of damage done by beetle to their yam crops and asks the Minister of Research and Information to make available to these farmers the results of experiments as soon as these have been satisfactorily concluded.

**Mr E. C. Akwivwu** (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name. That this House calls upon the Federal Government to investigate immediately the extension of the railway line in the Eastern Region as follows:

- (a) Aba-Oron
- (b) Enugu-Awka-Onitsha
- (c) Awka-Orlu-Umuahia
- (d) Awka-Orlu-Owerri-Aba

Sir, in moving this Motion, I do hope that the wording of the Motion would be regarded as being less controversial than the wording of the previous one I moved. Sir, I would say that there is a lot of difference between "consider the immediate" and "consider immediately."

So, Sir, in moving this Motion, I am respectfully bringing to the Government to consider the two expressions "investigate" and "immediate". Sir, the question of the extension of Railways in this country has been the subject matter of some Motions in this House previously. If I remember correctly Sir, the first Motion that came before this House made the mistake of drawing habitually without giving the Government any choice whatsoever and assuming Sir, that the Government had no intentions of making any investigations whatever and whatever the public, commercial and engineering possibilities might be, that the Government should simply get up, put up the Railway, whether possible or impossible. I think that was the effect of the first Motion.

The other Motion that was agreeable to this good and generous Government, was the one which called upon the Government to accept in principle the idea of the extension of our present Railways. In this Motion, drawing the attention of the Government to the question of investigation of the possibility of extending a Railway system satisfactorily to the country, we are aware of the fact that already there is some extension work in some part of the country. But, Sir, in this particular one, we wish to draw the attention of the Government to the extension of the Railway system in that particular part of this country, where no investigation has so far been done since the beginning of the Railway system in this country. As a matter of fact Sir, the only investigation that was done took place in the 1920's and, because of the slump, it had to be

abandoned. It did not come to a conclusion. If I may say so, Sir, it is as exemplified in the Motion, it does extend to places that have very great significance, nationally and otherwise, in this country.

Sir, I wish to emphasize clearly the effect of the investigation. One cannot expect a responsible Government merely on the request of the House, or a Member of the House, to undertake a very expensive venture without adequate investigation. The Government will certainly, before taking any decision of the extension of the Railway system, will have to satisfy themselves on certain possibilities, it will have to satisfy itself also on the engineering possibilities of the undertaking and with the question of investigation possibilities. I think Sir the population of the places in question, as well as the amenities, will stand very serious consideration.

In the Motion as it is Sir, I will venture to submit that, as far as the population is concerned, the network suggested can be found wanting. I would, therefore, like to say Sir that the network which has been suggested to be investigated, will cover a population of between 2 to 3 million people and that might well be a very conservative estimate.

Sir, I will not assume the role of being the judge of the Leader of the Opposition but going on Sir I will say that if this Railway is constructed, the Government will not only find that the exceeding population will patronise and support the system, but it will also find itself exploring one of the most productive areas of this country. We have Sir, second to none, the palm produce beaches of Oguta and Orlu, we also have, second to none, the very prosperous palm oil use collected throughout the network suggested. As far as that is concerned, Sir, we have got the Escravos Bar there, of which the Government and this House have readily agreed to vote a very large sum of money. We also have in view the projects for the deepening of the Niger and the Benue, with a view to making them near ocean traffic. We also have Sir other great potentialities but it needs very great exploration in the Imo River. It is a very important River Sir in the Eastern Region, is a River to which no expert learning has been devoted and with the creation of the inland Waterways Department, there is no

light whatsoever that the scheme will be frustrated if there is no efficient system to connect it. This needs also the most urgent and devoted attention of the Government.

In giving the Government scope within which to exercise their reasonable discretion, we are suggesting that they should be represented but I would also suggest that even on the engineering side there will be no engineering problem whatsoever. It is a flat country, once you have got beyond the Milliken Hill at Enugu, you have flat country to deal with, unless flatness has its own engineering problems. Sir, it will be easier than digging through the rocks that pass through Abeokuta and Ogbo-mosho. (Laughter). The point of Ijebu waterside will be completely absent. So that Sir, it is a thing that commends itself to all sides of this House. It will cost us very very little comparatively speaking. Very flat land. Sir, it will help and ensure that our new waterways system, which we are about to put in a lot of money, has a most beneficial use to this country.

Sir, before I wind up I will say this, that I lay emphasis on this word "investigate," because records show that the history of Railway investigation in this country is a matter of the remote past and the fact that lead to the decision in the 1920's can hardly be said to be good to-day and for the benefit of the House Sir, with your permission I will recount a few instances—We got investigation in 1924 to 1927, when the possibility of extending the Railway to Wukari, Sokoto and Zaria was investigated, then Sir, the conclusion was that there was no traffic potentiality, it was abandoned and within the same period Sir, the extension between Kaura Namoda and the North East was investigated. Again no economic potentiality. In the years between 1926 and 1927 Sir, the only investigation that has been made in this part of the country is an investigation carried out between Umukoroshe and Owerri, no conclusion was reached. It was said to have been abandoned because of the slump. The occasion has passed for the Inquiry to be resumed, also Sir for the gratification of the Leader of the Opposition Ife and Ondo were investigated, no conclusions.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): That is too bad.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu**: In the same period Sir Oturkpo, Katsina Ala, Enugu, Ogoja,

Abakaliki were investigated and abandoned. Why? Slump. This slump has affected this aspect of Governmental activities, it is a very bad thing.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu**: Mr Speaker, Sir, in the period between 1927 and 1928 an investigation was made to the extension of the Railway, and in 1928 especially an investigation was made into an extension from Ibadan-Owo-Yelwa-Jega; this was abandoned on the ground that there was no high productivity prospects.

Sir, in 1930-31 an extension into an area between Lafia and Jos was also carried out and the conclusion was that the cost was prohibitive, and that commercial activities there were very doubtful.

In bringing this Motion, Sir, I am grateful for one fact, and that is the experience we have of the bigger countries, like Canada, India, America, and the United Kingdom, which has gone to show that money spent on extending railways, or the building of railways, has not been wasted. In fact with the growth of industry in this country, and with the overcrowding of our routes, the pressing need for the inspection of our railways becomes only too clear, and so, Sir, it is my respectful suggestion that we should investigate the possibility of further extensions in the country.

I do hope, Sir, that the fact that the word "immediately" appears in this Motion will not have any scaring effect. I quite appreciate that the Motion I moved earlier on to-day, appeared to have created some prejudice because it contained this word, and some different interpretation was put upon it. Sir, the significance of this word "immediately" is that if this Motion is accepted Government should make sure that steps are taken within a reasonable time to pursue this objective, and it should not be forgotten: also, as an hon. Friend has just intimated, it is a relative word which neither says to-day nor tomorrow, but that effort should be made as quickly as conditions permit.

Sir, in conclusion, I would, with your permission, make reference to the views expressed by the Hon. the Minister of Transport in respect of Motions of this sort and I have no doubt whatsoever that the terms in which the Motion has been presented to this House completely

meets with the philosophy of the Minister on the matter. The one thing I know that the Minister does not like is asking him arbitrarily without investigation to lay a line between say, for example, Ibadan and Owo without allowing him to investigate, examine the population aspect and the productivity in order to decide whether it is advisable or not.

Sir, the Motion says, "We call upon the Federal Government to investigate the extension of the railway line . . ." The word "immediately", of course I have explained the context and implication. Sir, the hon. the Minister said on the 5th of April, 1955, "This is not a change of heart. I quarrel with the Motion of the Leader of the Opposition because he suggested specific railway lines; he suggested nine lines and gave the names of towns through which the railway lines should pass. My argument on that occasion was, it will be very difficult for Government to accept such a Motion because before a railway line is extended or constructed, detailed investigation has to be carried out. First of all we have to find out the possibilities of the traffic that is likely to be offered by the line when constructed, and secondly there must be an engineering survey".

Now, Sir, what clearer indication of the Minister's mind do we want? I am definitely sure that the hon. Minister would rise up to his previous expression and will accept this Motion in the terms put forward. The fact that he has tabled no amendment coupled with the very constructive tone of the Motion indicates in advance his attitudes towards the Motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr P. H. Okolo** (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, I rise to second this Motion. The hon. the Mover, I think, has established his case. (Hear, hear.) The Motion is a very simple one and I do not think any reasonable Government can reject it.

One thing he (the Mover) has been harping upon is this, that the Government may investigate. It does not say that the railway line should be constructed or extended to-day or tomorrow. It is to investigate and we hope by the time, at least at the end of this session or by the end of next session, there would be a statement made by Government as a result of that investigation. That exactly, I think, is what the Motion is seeking for—that the Government gives an assurance that it is going to investigate the matter and report.

Now, the idea of a railway extension in the East is certainly not new. I know that about 20 years ago just before the World War I, a track was cut from Umukoroshe near Port Harcourt passing through Owerri, Nnewi and Onitsha, and we were told that on account of the war it was not possible to carry out that project. And so I do not think it is unreasonable to ask our Government now to investigate the matter. The railway line will pass through what we may consider the most populous part of Ibo land—Aba, Owerri, Nnewi. There are people there who are very much engaged in commerce and there is no question of the railway, if constructed, not being patronised by the people there. There is also no doubt that the whole country is an agricultural country and that they have agricultural products for commerce.

I remember, Sir, even at Nnewi we learn from very reliable sources that coal was found here. I cannot tell here the extent of the find or the quality of the coal but there is no doubt that coal is there. And if that railway line will pass through Nnewi it will be an asset to this country that we have to develop the economic resources of this country. That is the reason why I think our Government should investigate the possibility of this railway line.

It was stated in our 1956-60 Economic Programme that a bridge is to be constructed across the Niger, and we know that a colossal sum of £600,000 has been earmarked for a Dutch firm of Engineers who are going to construct the bridge. Now, you will see that if the bridge is constructed it is possible to extend the line to Asaba, to Benin, to Ilesha and then to Oshogbo and you will have what may be described as our Mid-Southern railway which I believe able to tap all the parts of the country from Port Harcourt to Oshogbo; and if the work of the firm of Engineers proves successful, the navigability of the Niger is proved, it will be easy to evacuate produce through the Niger and the railway will be able to bring produce from the East, from the West, down the Niger.

I think that the hon. the Mover has stated that this network of railway lines will be necessary and for this reason, Sir, I second the Motion.

*Question proposed.*

**Yakubu Wanka** (Central Bauchi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion.

In opposing the Motion, Sir, I will say that I sympathise with the Mover because the spirit of the Motion is good.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I realise that transport is important in the economic development of our country. But, Sir, we must reflect. Substantial amounts of money will have to be spent on the railway line proposed for Bornu Province and that money, Sir, has not been available. It is, therefore, Sir, very difficult for the Council of Ministers to negotiate or to consider another line, and here is a proposed one which has not been completed. I think every reasonable Member should see with me in this respect.

Secondly, Sir, if a Motion of this kind is approved it is likely that Motions of this kind will be forthcoming from various Members asking for amenities for their Regions and for their constituencies. This Motion is one that seeks the expenditure of millions of pounds and for this reason we must consider something which is more important than the provision of railway line as asked by this Motion.

For this reason, Sir, I beg to oppose though I sympathise with the Mover.

**The Minister of Transport** (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I felt after the debate on the Leader of the Opposition's Motion at the Budget meeting of 1955 that I would no more be called upon to debate a Motion the kind of which is before the House now. The hon. Mover started by referring to the Motion of the Leader of the Opposition which the House rejected in 1955. But it is surprising, Sir, that the hon. Mover in trying to strengthen his argument for this Motion tried to oppose a portion of the speech which was made in opposing that Motion.

Let us look, Sir, at the terms of the Motion which is now before the House. It says "That this House calls upon the Federal Government to investigate immediately..." My hon. Friend the Mover, who is a lawyer, tried to find the excuse of getting away the word "immediately" but I am very pleased that the seconder of the Motion destroyed that argument completely because he pointed out that we hope that next year the Federal Government will come out with a statement telling us the result of the investigation.

When I opposed the Motion of 1955—a Motion which was very carefully drafted by the Leader of the Opposition and which of course

naturally appealed to all sections of the House—I told the House that Government is not against the idea of extending the railway throughout the country. But we must be reasonable in asking the Railway Corporation for matters of this kind. In the first place the Corporation is to spend money on rail traffic survey and on the engineering survey. Not only that, the House is already aware that Government has accepted in principle the idea of extending the railway by about four hundred miles to Bornu. That extension will cost about £28 million. The money, as the last speaker said, has not yet been found. We are now being asked to investigate another extension and if the lines being suggested by the hon. mover are to be followed properly they will add no more than three hundred miles to the present railway and that will cost, apart from rolling stock and other things, over £10 million. We want £20 million to extend the railway the survey of which has been completed already. We are borrowing money from outside. We have not got the money and now we are being asked again to extend the railway by another three hundred miles which will cost us more than £10 million. I don't think there is any sense in doing a thing of this kind.

Again the hon. Mover referred to a Motion which Government accepted from Chief Omolodun. That Motion was passed in very general terms. We accepted it in order to show the House and the country that we are not against the extension of the Railway. But before the extension is made there are many things which have to be taken into account. Sir, let us take the hon. Member's Motion, his proposal which is before the House, *i.e.*, the lines Aba-Oron, Enugu-Awka-Onitsha; Awka-Orlu-Umuahia; and Awka-Orlu-Owerri-Aba. All these towns are well served by good road system. They are either on good roads or they are on roads which are now under construction. The idea of providing transport service either by rail or road or water is not to turn every hon. Member's town into a railway station. But it is to see how we could make a fair distribution of the service to the whole of the country.

We are very lucky in Nigeria, the problem of keeping a balance between the different systems is not yet with us. By that I mean in other parts of the world they are facing the problem of keeping a balance between rail, road and river transport. This country is

developing rapidly and our economy is also expanding. We are coming to this problem of keeping a balance in the different systems. But the most important factor which we have to remember in asking for transport service of the kind which the hon. Member is asking is the resources at the disposal of the Federal Government.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): But he is not asking for a service; he is asking for an investigation.

**The Minister of Transport**: It is more than an investigation; he is asking for a service. If you investigate, your investigation should yield results and after that I have no doubt the hon. Member the Leader of the Opposition would be the first to take me to task if I did nothing.

**Chief S. L. Akintola**: The trouble with you is that you are thinking too fast.

**The Minister of Transport**: Sir, the total road mileage of the extensions which are proposed in this Motion, I think, will come to about 313 miles and it is very unlikely, Sir, that—that is, if the proposals would follow the existing roads and, as hon. Members know, if the lines are to be constructed, they would not normally follow the lines of the existing roads and—instead of 313 miles it might be more than that. Now, on the basis, Sir, that the proposed lines will follow the existing roads, the expenditure on the extensions will be about £10 million and this figure excludes the cost of rolling stock and interest on capital building construction. There cannot, naturally be any real estimate of the cost of this work until an engineering survey has been carried out on the ground but, for our purposes, I think that a figure of more than £10 million can be taken as a reasonable guess.

Now, as I have indicated, the financial issues involved in any railway extension are so great that it would be unwise to commit the Federal Government to any particular line before any traffic and engineering surveys had been carried out, as the hon. Mover himself pointed out, when quoting my speech. Now, if an extensive traffic and engineering survey were to be carried out, in accordance with this Motion, other extensions would be found to have a prior claim for investigation. By that I mean, Sir, the hon. Member has quoted parts of investigations of possible railway extensions which were

undertaken by the old Nigerian Railway; I could remember, Sir, that those investigations were given out in answer to a question. Now, although the investigations were made, Sir, some, as the hon. Member pointed out, were interrupted by the slump of 1930; some were found to be uneconomic and I have no doubt, Sir, that the lines which are now being proposed by the hon. Member, because of the provision of adequate road communication in those parts of the Eastern Region, extension of those lines would be found to be of no great use.

Now, I do appreciate, Sir, that every hon. Member here would like to see his town or constituency connected by railway. (*Hear, hear.*) But railways are not built to satisfy the prestige of individuals: they are made to pay. The hon. Member told the House that, in that part of the Eastern Region, the people are agriculturalists: they produce quite a lot but I will tell him that what they produce so far, road transport is able to evacuate in time; so it means, Sir, if we have the railway there, what will it carry? The seconder came to his rescue by saying that the place is well populated and the railway, when constructed, will be patronised by passengers. I want to tell the hon. Member, Sir, that passenger traffic alone will not make a railway pay.

I am very sorry, Sir, to say that the Government, trying still as it is to obtain £20 million for the Bornu railway extension, would not think it right to approach the Nigerian Railway Corporation to undertake a survey of lines which might never be constructed.

Sir, in answer to certain questions on railway extension in the House I have pointed out in the answers that the Nigerian Railway Corporation has appointed a special committee, from its own body; that committee examines possible railway extensions. Now, in their examination of costs, the committee will have only one thing in mind: if we are to extend, will the extension pay? Will it be economic?—and also the committee will have to think whether the place will be provided for by road or by water. I am quite satisfied, Sir, that the places which the hon. Member has mentioned in his Motion are all provided for by road transport. Therefore, Sir, I am very sorry to say that the Government is unable to support the Motion.

I, therefore, oppose and I ask the House to reject it too.

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama** (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. the Mover of this Motion has enumerated a very long list of investigations made in many places with a view to extending the railway to the places concerned but only to be abandoned for some strong and justifiable reasons. It appears to me, Sir, that the hon. Mover of this Motion is simply calling for investigations and he does not seem to care whether the investigations would be of any use at all.

The Mover of this Motion should certainly realise that it would cost the railway several thousands of pounds to make what can even be termed mere investigations or surveys as to the possibility of laying a railway line between one place and another. In view of the fact that at the moment the Railway Corporation is struggling very hard to get some money to make the Maiduguri extension a possibility, and that the money is not yet forthcoming, it does not seem to be correct to ask the Railway Corporation at the moment to take up another survey and sink several thousands of pounds which could be put to better use elsewhere.

In this case, Mr Speaker, I oppose this Motion.

**Mr Z. B. Olokesusi** (Ekiti South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not opposing this Motion, and I am not supporting it, but I want to record certain comments I would like to make. It seems now that the Minister of Transport has come to face us with the difficulty, that at any time we ask for an extension of the railway, the answer will be that there is no money.

In this case, I think that the Motion which the hon. Member has made is very different from the one made in 1955. I do not see any reason why the Railway Corporation cannot be consulted to make a survey of the whole country itself and find out the possibility of where to extend the railway line, which of them would be economic and which would be uneconomic. It is not only when we have a large sum of money on hand that we should be looking about where in Nigeria we are going to extend.

The Mover of this Motion has just said that some investigations were carried out in the 1920's. The reason why these lines were abandoned were not given. The reason why there has been no investigation since that time,

we have not been told. There has been no investigation in the East, none in the West. I know that there is a possible extension that the Government is planning at present in the Northern Region, but it seems to me that the whole region of.....

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Point of order Sir. There is no investigation in the East, none in the West. I protest. Is he charging the Minister with discrimination? I protest strongly.

**Mr Speaker**: The hon. Member knows as well as I do that that is not a point of order.

**Mr Olokesusi**: Mr Speaker, Sir, the point I want to make is that if we are allowing the Railway Corporation to go away with the idea that the Government or the Members of this House cannot come and represent the views of their constituency to them, and then lay their difficulties before them, we are making them to see the necessity of extension, and are making them to investigate every possible way of carrying out these extensions. It is a profit-making corporation. We want it to pay the Government. That is why the Corporation was created. I do not know the reason why the Minister should answer for the Railway Corporation that they are not able to do the investigation. I do not mean that the investigation alone could cost the millions of pounds that the Minister was talking about. If the investigation is made then it is a matter of priority. Which is most economic, which would be most profit yielding? Then the answer would be the most profit yielding and the most economic line would be laid first, and so this could be put on the records or in the scheme of the Railway Corporation, and one by one in a few years or in a number of years, the Railway Corporation will have a scheme before them, which they would be earning from time to time.

I know, Sir, that there is a huge sum of money to be spent on the Benue extension. I know that to extend railways to all parts of Nigeria would be very difficult and very costly, but no indication of time is given here and no amount of expense is earmarked here, but I think that the Government is being asked to consider the investigation as a necessity. Investigate it and then let us know whether this line mentioned by the hon. Mover of the Motion would be economic

or uneconomic. Then next Session tell us that the Railway Corporation have agreed to make the investigation. If they make an investigation about even only one line. If it is uneconomic the hon. Member will be able to say that because the line would be uneconomic to lay there the project is abandoned. I think that would be a better answer than only because the laying of the line will cost such a sum of money therefore the Railway Corporation will not be approached to make investigation into the further extension of the railway lines throughout the Regions of the country.

**M. Bello Dandago** (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that this is the first time that I would come to grips with my good and sincere friend and to disagree with his Motion. Sir, the able Minister has taken considerable pains to explain the matter and has driven the matter home to the Mover of the Motion, and I know he has sufficient—I do not want to say sufficient—I would say he has intelligence to understand the Federal Minister from the explanation given. Sir, it has no sense. It appears as if we are now chewing a loaf of bread. We are trying to chew it and to swallow it, and this Motion, if accepted, will force another loaf of bread into our mouths before we chew and swallow the first. So before the Federal Government there is an undertaking, and in the name of one Nigeria, no matter in what part of the Federation the proposed railway extension is about to be, I think the Mover would allow this intended extension to be put into practice.

As to the view—"What are we going to tell our people in our Constituency?" I think I would tell the last speaker to tell them it is considered uneconomic.

**Mr D. E. Okereke** (Owerri): Mr Speaker, if money were leased, if silver was as plentiful as the sands of the sea, I am almost sure that the Government would have accepted this Motion, but in view of the fact that there is an Economic Programme, and in view of the fact that our revenue is very scanty, the Government must reject this Motion. But there is one lesson for us to learn, and that is what I want to point out. It is the lesson that we must exercise the utmost economy in our expenditure because we need these things. We need



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improvements in every way and therefore the need for the utmost economy in our expenditure must be considered.

The Council of Ministers are the guardians of our expenditure and realising the fact that this country wants improvement and improvement, expansion and expansion, it behoves them therefore, as guardians of expenditure, to see that there is not as much unnecessary expenditure in our Estimates as there is now.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, in order to assure the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that I am a man, as I said, Sir, when I was moving my Motion, there is no doubt at all that our Government is in no way opposed to the Policy of railway extension. The Minister himself has once said so, Sir. He said the Motion before the House is in a very general term. The Government has never had the intention that these railways should not be extended. That continues to be the policy of this Government. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to withdraw.

**Mr Speaker**: Is it the wish of the House that the Motion be withdrawn?

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): No, Sir.

**Mr Speaker**: Does Chief Akintola persist in his "No, Sir"?

**Chief Akintola**: No, no Sir.

*Question put and negatived.*

#### MR BEN ENWONWU, ART ADVISER

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name. Sir, this is a Motion that neither calls for advocacy nor any sweet words of endearment. The point, Sir, is, I am quite sure neither the Leader of the Opposition, nor anybody in this House, should object to the terms of the Motion: That this House notes with gratitude the honour done to Nigeria by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in commissioning Mr Ben Enwonwu, Art Adviser to the Federal Government of Nigeria, to execute the portrait bust of Her Britannic Majesty.

Sir, this is a Motion, I believe, that commends itself to this House. This is a talented son of Nigeria, and in keeping with the distinguished recognition we have been receiving from Her Majesty, especially since her visit to Nigeria, this fact comes to us as a matter of very great pleasure. We have great pleasure in

knowing, Sir, that right from the United Kingdom the gifted sons of this country are being accorded distinguished recognition, and being lined up with the distinguished artists of the world.

There is no doubt, Sir, that as time goes on we shall receive recognition from this gesture, and our gifted sons and daughters will continue, Sir, knowing fully well that there is no limit to the recognition they may achieve. And, Sir, in the same way, there is no doubt that the leaders of this country in every sphere, when once they distinguish themselves in their own sphere, they will get, on behalf of this country, the recognition that they merit.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion does not require long speeches. Mr Ben Enwonwu has risen from the lowest rung on the ladder to the highest, because one of the greatest ambitions of any artist, as far as we know in the history of fine arts, is to have the patronage of a reigning monarch. Today, Sir, I am sure Ben Enwonwu in London, will be very much in demand by society men and women. Having been recognised by the Queen, naturally those who appreciate art and appreciate the stature of artists, will attach as much importance to Ben Enwonwu as the Queen, in recognising him. For this country, it is a very great credit.

I rise to second this Motion, particularly because Ben Enwonwu is a product of my own college—Government College, Umuahia, and not only has he done credit to this country, Sir, he has earned great credit for Government College, Umuahia, and Ben Enwonwu shows the type of product the Government College Umuahia produces. It gives me great pleasure I wish I had the old boy's tie. I would have worn it, Sir, two three times. I look forward to Ben Enwonwu before finishing his work in Buckingham Palace, taking along with him the old boy's tie, so that the Queen will also give recognition to the Government College old boy's tie.

Sir, even the Financial Secretary in this Budget Session also gave financial recognition to Ben Enwonwu, who had been a back-room boy in the Information Service. The Director of the Information Service refused to give him recognition, but immediately the Queen recognised him, the Financial Secretary also gave

him recognition. I am not particularly worried about the rest, whether they like it or not, he has been established. It is only right and proper that this House should also give a stamp of authority to confirmation, in other words, to give him his national recognition. This Motion asks nothing more than that the nation, through its representatives, should do honour and credit, and recognise its eminent son in the field of fine arts.

Sir, with these words, I beg to second the Motion.

*Questioned proposed.*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Mr Speaker, the Government welcomes this Motion, and appreciates the opportunity of associating itself with this expression of gratitude at the honour that is being done to Ben Enwonwu. I should, perhaps, add a few words to what the hon. Gentleman, Mr Wachuku, has said about the degree of the honour. It is, as he said, the greatest ambition of any artist, to have the patronage of the reigning monarch, and because it is the greatest ambition, and because artists wish to realise their ambition, Her Majesty is much beset with requests to give sittings to this artist, or to that artist. But, not only because it would be wrong to make unreasonable demands upon the Queen's time, which is very fully occupied already, but also in order that it may be a true honour, sittings are very rarely given, and it is not every painter, or every sculptor who depicts the Queen, who has had the honour of being given sittings, so that for any artist to be given sittings by the Queen is a great honour, a recognition of talent, and Ben Enwonwu's recognition is unique in this way, that he is the first artist, painter or sculptor, from the whole Continent of Africa, who has been given sittings by Her Majesty.

I am sure the House will be pleased that the House itself is to share in the honour, in that the portrait bust when completed is intended to be installed within the precincts of this House. I hope the House will be pleased also to know, Sir, that Ben Enwonwu is being given great help by eminent sculptors in the United Kingdom. Sir William Reid Dick, who is Her Majesty's sculptor in ordinary, has taken Ben very much under his wing; Sir Jacob Epstein, who is one of the world's greatest living sculptors, is also helping

him. Whether these two distinguished men always see eye to eye with one another I gather from Ben's letter—perhaps that is not something that I should mention here. But he is being helped and he is confident that he is going to be worthy of the honour that has been done him, and that he will produce a sculpture of which he and all Nigeria can properly be proud.

Sir, the Government wholeheartedly supports the Motion.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, no doubt, Sir, every member of this hon. House is proud of this worthy son of Nigeria whose enthusiasm in the field of art has earned not only for him but also for the whole of Nigeria this world-wide fame. In fact, Sir, we are the more proud that, quite apart from his natural dexterity, Ben Enwonwu has been so honoured by the spiritual and temporal Supreme of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Commonwealth.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Nigeria has all these years been doing very well in art, both locally and abroad, and this recent recognition by Her Majesty will certainly encourage and promote art in Nigeria, and we therefore do not hesitate to note with gratitude the honour done to Nigeria by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in commissioning Mr Ben Enwonwu, Art Adviser to the Federal Government of Nigeria, to execute a portrait of Her Royal Britannic Majesty. We can confidently, therefore boast of our art, and can say without any fear of contradiction that our art is capable of comparing favourably and competing also with any in any part of the world.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is said that "seest thou a man diligent in his work, he shall stand before kings". The case of Ben Enwonwu draws home this dictum to me. In 1941 and 1942 at Benin City, Ben Enwonwu had almost abandoned his profession, this very profession, because he had a lot of discouragement when he was attached to Edo College. I remember how some of us rallied around him and asked him to continue. Now, this again reminds me, Mr Speaker, that we should not discourage talent. It also reminds me that certain people that have certain talents hardly yield quickly to the dictates of those who want to embarrass them.

Mr Enwonwu, after all, has reached the topmost of his ambition, and we are very happy that we have such an illustrious son.

Mr Speaker, I need not go further; I associate myself with the remarks made already by others and I support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House notes with gratitude the honour done to Nigeria by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in commissioning Mr Ben Enwonwu, Art Adviser to the Federal Government of Nigeria, to execute a portrait bust of Her Royal Britannic Majesty.

#### TRUNK ROADS A

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu)**: Mr Speaker, once more I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, That, in the opinion of this House, the present standards for the determination of Trunk Roads A are insufficient and should be changed.

Sir, now that the tide has turned, I do hope that the Motion will be acceptable to the Government. Sir, I shall not keep the House very long; the terms of the Motion are simple and straightforward.

To the best of my understanding, Sir, the basis upon which our Trunk A roads have hitherto been determined do not take any notice of the commercial importance of any place or the other. And I feel, Sir, it is wrong that the most important and well-cared for roads in this country should have no relation whatsoever to the economy of the country. To my understanding, Sir, the roads classified as Trunk A Roads are supposed to be roads linking the Regions, or roads linking provincial headquarters.

Sir, in some of the most productive parts of the country by far the greatest limitation is roads. It is unfair, Sir, that in a matter of trade and commerce of this country, for which the Federal Government is held far more responsible than any Regional Government, the Federal Government should have little or nothing to do with the roads connecting the most important commercial areas of the country. Sir, a lot of money has been spent in the port of Lagos; a lot of money is being spent on the port at Port Harcourt. To what use will it be, Sir, with the road chasing about provincial headquarters and these expensive ports have no good roads serving them? As

is quite clear to-day, a very substantial proportion of the goods coming in and out of our warehouses and wharves are being moved by roads and there is nothing that will be more reasonable than to ensure that the facilities are as best as they can be.

Sir, we have in some of our best palm producing areas the limitation of transport. It has been suggested that some parts of the country are adequately supplied with roads; and the other aspect of it that we have to look into is how long do the roads remain open? Members watching the Gazette may note from time to time, particularly during the rainy season, some roads are closed to traffic for about a month or two, and in the best palm producing areas of this country roads have proved a very strong limiting factor. In a place like Ahoada Division, Sir, one of the finest palm producing areas in the country, roads are hardly open for use throughout the year. Between the months of May and September, it is always a risk when we have to evacuate the palm oil produce which is produced. I feel, Sir, that nothing will be better and nothing will serve the community of this country better than that the Government should re-examine its standards for Trunk A roads, with a view to giving very prominent recognition to the economic factors. I do not think Sir, that it is wrong for the Government to make this expense, after all the Government has the £1.1 million just granted to this country for the purpose of our road systems and I think Sir, it will serve the country much better to effect saving in some other things and put more money to the maintenance of those roads that produce the money from which the State is maintained.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**The Minister of Works (Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Wada)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have observed that Members are not very anxious to debate this Motion, in view of the fact that it took quite a number of seconds to get a Seconder, I think I will come in at this moment and save the hon. Members time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the main purpose of Trunk Road A system is to provide inter-regional communications between the Federal and

Regional capitals, Ports and other large towns and international links with the important centres in neighbouring territories. The system supplies the framework, with emphasis on framework, on which the remainder of the country's roads is constructed. Members will appreciate the essentially national character of Trunk A systems, comparable with the national air and railway communications which have been accepted as a Federal responsibility. The classification of a road as Trunk A has not, hitherto, depended on traffic density, or even on its economic importance, but on its value as a link in the basic inter-regional and international road system of the country, and I am strongly of the opinion that this principle should be maintained. Acceptance of it does not imply that the Trunk A system as at present defined, should remain unaltered in perpetuity. It does, however, mean that any of these modifications should be judged in the light of the national interests of the country, not of one section of it. This is the policy, which has been in force since 1954, when the present Constitution was introduced, and is a policy which was recently endorsed by the National Economic Council, to which all Government sent representatives. Moreover, I consider that the present policy is still compatible with the existing needs of the country. I do not claim that it is a policy palatable to all tastes, but I do claim that a line must be drawn somewhere and in my view this line should not, if possible, be influenced by financial convenience. However, I would not at this moment welcome an extension of the Trunk Roads A system, as the funds provided for its maintenance and improvement under the Economic Programme, are the maximum available but, at the same time, they represent the bare minimum as far as this work is concerned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Mover of the Motion spoke of the Ports of Lagos and Port Harcourt. I am glad to inform him that already the Federal Government has a scheme of improving the road system of these two ports. The Apapa Harbour is going to be served by the Western Avenue, the road linking Port Harcourt with the Mainland is going to be widened to a 22' width. Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into much detail about this, as I intend to make a more detailed statement on these roads when the House comes to Debate my Head of Estimates.

Mr Speaker, the hon. Member also spoke of Ahoada as being a very rich and prosperous farm producing country. He has also mentioned that the roads in this area are closed for a certain period of the year. With due respect, Sir, I want to remind the hon. Member that this is purely a Regional responsibility. The Federal Government is to build a basic framework of roads upon which the Regions and the local authorities can build their own feeder roads.

In view of the explanation I have given Sir, I am sure, in spite of the Leader of the Opposition, and in spite of what other considerations he may have, we may rest assured that his motive is well understood, we know his desires, his constituents will know that he has fought for them, but I want him to consider the resources at our disposal, and the Government being unable to accept the Motion, I call on the hon. Member to withdraw the Motion.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to withdraw.

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

#### Adjournment

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-eight minutes past four o'clock until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 20th March, 1957.*

#### QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

*Question—*

**W.50. M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa** asked the Minister of Works:—

If he will give the total mileage of Trunk Roads A with bituminous surface in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions, respectively.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Works**: The total mileage of Trunk Roads A with a bituminous surface in the Northern Region is 748 miles, in the Western Region 665 miles and in the Eastern Region 330 miles.

Question—

W.62. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Works :—

If he is aware of the many accidents occurring at points on Trunk Roads A where Messrs Costains West Africa Ltd. have constructed road diversions to enable bridges to be built; and if he will take steps to see that these diversions are properly re-constructed and maintained before the rains begin this year.

Answer—

The Minister of Works : I am not aware of any accidents at these points. I understand, however, that all possible precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of traffic on the diversions. Large warning notices have been erected, flagmen employed and a speed limit of 10 m.p.h. imposed. It has also been arranged that those diversions which will be in use during the wet season will be tarred.

Question—

W.83. Mr B. A. Obaje asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will take steps to increase to standard width the Trunk Road A from Shintaku to the Benue-Kabba provincial boundary in Igala Division, and construct permanent bridges in that section.

Answer—

The Minister of Works : The traffic density on the section of road referred to is less than 100 vehicles per day. The width of the carriageway is sufficient for the time being. The Crown Agents Bridge Survey Team will be including this section of road in their next Programme of Work in Nigeria.

Question—

O.86. Rev. E. S. Bens asked the Minister of Labour and Welfare :—

If he will state the causes of labour unrest in the Federation during the past five years.

Answer—

The Minister of Labour and Welfare : The hon. Member is no doubt aware that

labour unrest stems generally from the desire of trade unions and workers to obtain improved wages and conditions of service. On occasion, labour unrest can of course arise from purely local grievances associated with the relations between labour and management. Labour unrest in the Federation within the past five years has stemmed from these two main causes aggravated by the wage increases and arrears awarded to Government employees.

The extent of such unrest should not be exaggerated. I am pleased to be able to report that the loss of work time due to industrial disputes, if we assume that there are some half a million wage earners, represents an average of less than one minute per worker per day during the past five years.

Question—

O.170. Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo asked the Minister of Works :—

If he is aware that the Ikot Ekpene County Council has applied to the Federal Ministry of Works for reimbursement in respect of damage done to the Council's roads by vehicles using them during the period of reconstruction of the Ndiakata bridge on Trunk Road A; and if he will take steps to effect the reimbursement?

Answer—

The Minister of Works : No, Sir.

Question—

O.193. Mr F. N. E. Ngale asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state what proportion of the proposed 90 miles extension to the Trunk Road A system would be constructed in the Southern Cameroons, indicating the areas in the territory to be affected?

Answer—

The Minister of Works : 15 miles of the proposed 90 miles extension to the Trunk Roads A system will be constructed in the Southern Cameroons between Takum, Bisaula and Kamine.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NIGERIA

Wednesday, 20th March, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

### PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

### PAPERS

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

1. The International Tin Agreement, participation by Nigerian Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1957 and 2. White Paper on Federal Fisheries Service Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1957.

### QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

Question—

\*O.145. M. Mohamed Bello, Turakin Argungu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

What was the turnover in units in each of the Postal Agencies in the Northern Region with Savings Bank facilities, during the year 1956.

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) : There was only one Postal Agency giving Savings Bank facilities operating in the Northern Region during the year 1956. That was in Kaduna Town. The turnover in units was 100,772.

Supplementary to O.145—

M. Mohamed Bello, Turakin Argungu : Will the Minister please extend postal facilities to other places in Kano?

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Facilities will be extended once the conditions warranting an extension of postal services facilities are met.

Question—

\*O.157. M. Muhammadu Bello Alkamawa asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How soon he proposes to replace the already overloaded telegraph line from Birnin Kebbi to Sokoto, with a modern installation?

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : It is anticipated that the new telephone and telegraph trunk line Sokoto-Argungu-Birnin Kebbi will be completed during 1959.

Question—

\*O.174. M. Nuhu Bamalli asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How many postal training schools are there in the country and what are the minimum educational qualifications necessary for admission into them?

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : There are at present operating :—

1. Course for officers of the Postal Controlling grade.
2. Course for Postal Supervising officers.
3. Courses for the primary training of Postal Officers and Postal Officers and Telegraphists.

Courses 1 and 2 cater for all established officers of the grades referred to and no educational qualification applies. Course 3 is at present designed to train applicants for appointment as Postal Officers and Postal Officer and Telegraphist for which the minimum educational qualification is Middle IV.

It is intended during this year to open at least three more Courses for postal primary training. Some will provide refresher training for existing established staff.

The only two postal training schools existing are in Lagos but it is intended during this year to open three more at Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna respectively.

Question—

O.175. N. Nuhu Bamalli asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Why boys of Standard Six educational qualification are not eligible for appointment in the permanent establishment of the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

Answer—

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Candidates with Standard VI educational qualifications are eligible for entry into the "G" salary scale posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The Department

conforms with the recommendation made at Appendix I of the Report of the Federal Grading Teams, as accepted by the Government in Sessional Paper 12 of 1956.

Question—

\*O.176. **Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will state how many post offices have been opened in each Region in the period 1956-57, indicating the number in the rural areas?

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** The number of Post Offices opened during the year ended 31st March, 1957, is as follows:—

Northern Region	6	(4 in rural areas)
Eastern Region	6	(5 in rural areas)
Western Region	2	(1 in rural area)

Question—

\*O.177. **Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will take steps to improve the telephone services at Iseyin.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** In the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme, provision has been made for a new telephone line route Oyo-Iseyin-Shaki and for a telephone exchange with its network of subscribers' lines at Iseyin. It is anticipated that the Oyo-Iseyin portion of the route will be completed by October 1957.

Question—

\*O.178. **Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will consider providing Departmental Post Offices with telephone facilities for the people of Oyo North Constituency.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** Departmental Post Offices are provided under a national programme of Post Office Construction based on a priority of need and financed out of the Capital Expenditure Vote approved annually by the House.

The conditions for the provision of Departmental Post Offices are contained in a White Paper on Post Offices which has been presented to the House this Session.

The following is a list of the Postal Agencies in the Oyo North constituency together with the units of business transacted at each:—

	Units
Iseyin .. ..	8,900
Oke-Iho .. ..	4,616
Ilero .. ..	3,616
Ago Are .. ..	4,840
Shaki .. ..	14,635
Shepeteri .. ..	2,423
Igboho .. ..	2,414
Kishi .. ..	3,151

None qualify for conversion to Departmental status under the terms of the White Paper, either as regards volume of business or as mail exchange centres.

In the Telecommunications Plan for the 1956-60 Development Programme, provision has been made for a new telephone trunk route to be built from Oyo to Iseyin and Shaki and for telephone exchanges and subscriber lines to be installed at Iseyin and Shaki.

Question—

\*O.200. **Mr F. U. Mbakogu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will state the number of postal agencies in Awka Division, naming their localities and indicating the number of postal units recorded in each of them in the periods January to June, and July to December 1956, respectively.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** The following are the postal agencies in Awka Division together with their relevant postal unit figures:—

	Units
Abagana .. ..	13,293
Adazienu .. ..	5,115
Adazi-Ani .. ..	2,625
Awbu .. ..	2,625
Aghalla .. ..	not available
Agulu .. ..	9,101
Enugwu Abo .. ..	6,720
Enugu Ukwu .. ..	13,244
Enugu Agidi .. ..	2,625
Ifite Ukpo .. ..	2,625
Mgbakwu .. ..	2,625
Nri .. ..	4,684
Nibo .. ..	5,612
Nimo .. ..	9,878
Ndiowu .. ..	not available

	Units
Ndikelionwu .. ..	5,399
Ogbunka .. ..	3,593
Oleri .. ..	2,625
Ugwuoba .. ..	3,109
Owerri Nkerifi .. ..	2,625
Umuonyiba .. ..	3,783

The units of postal business are quoted for the full year ended December 1956 as they are calculated only on an annual basis.

The postal unit comparative figures for Aghalla and Ndiowu are not available as these agencies were only opened recently.

Supplementary to O.200—

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Is the Minister giving the figures for Njikoka District or for the whole of Awka Division, for none of the Postal Agencies in Aguata District of the Division were mentioned there.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** Well, as far as I can see here, I am giving the numbers that are available for Awka Division and I have not attempted to divide them between Njikoka and Aguata Districts.

Question—

\*O.201. **Mr F. U. Mbakogu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he proposes to hold an enquiry with a view to the conversion of the Aguata Postal Agency into a post office (Aguata/Ajalli) with telegraph and telephone facilities.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** I have already asked the Minister of Development of the Eastern Region to hold an enquiry and give me his advice on the best situation for a post office in this area. Provision exists for the construction of one post office at either Aguata or Ajalli, but until the dispute as to its siting has been resolved, I am unable to say where it will be built or how it can be fitted into the telecommunications scheme.

Supplementary to O.201—

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Knowing that the subject is a Federal responsibility, will the Minister consider holding the Inquiry himself or sending his Private Secretary or Parliamentary Secretary to hold the Inquiry?

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** No, Sir. The Minister has already

indicated the process in which he intends to hold the Inquiry.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Is the Minister aware that twice did the Regional Minister at Enugu give notice of holding the Inquiry and twice he failed?

Question—

\*O.202. **Mr F. U. Mbakogu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will consider extending telephone services to Adazi, Agulu, Nanka, Aguata and Uga Postal Agencies now that telephone lines have been constructed on the Awka-Orlu Road.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** In the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme, provision has only been made for a telephone call office at Agulu with trunks to Awka and Ndizuogu. I can assure the hon. Member that the towns mentioned in the question will be given due consideration when the Development Programme for the post-1960 period is being formulated.

Question—

\*O.204. **M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will state how much the West African Airways Corporation is paying annually for every airfield they use in Nigeria.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** The West African Airways Corporation, in common with any other operating company using Nigerian aerodromes, is required to pay a landing charge for each aircraft movement. These charges are prescribed in the Air Navigation (Fees) Regulations, 1953. In 1956-57 the Corporation paid approximately £20,000 in landing charges at Nigerian aerodromes.

Supplementary to O.204—

**M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa (Katsina):** May I know from the Minister if there is any proposal to increase this payment, Sir?

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** As the hon. Member is aware, Government constantly reviews the charges which it is required to make for services

rendered but at this time I am not in a position to say when action on revising of charges can be undertaken, but we have it constantly under review.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano):** Airports, Sir, and anything connected with them are Federal responsibility and as such, therefore, any revenue collected therefrom goes automatically to the Federal Government. May I know therefore under the circumstances, whether any portion of the revenue collected from any airport goes to the Region in which the airport is situated?

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** No, Sir.

*Question—*

**\*O.215. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will state how many post offices there are in Orlu Division.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** There are two Departmental Post Offices in Orlu Division namely Orlu and Arondizuogu.

*Supplementary to O.215—*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu:** Would the hon. Minister please tell us what plans he has for extending Departmental Post Offices.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** I propose to introduce formally a Government White Paper on Post Office Development and I think that time would be more convenient to answer this question as I do not want to anticipate that White Paper.

*Question—*

**\*O.216. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will consider establishing a post office in every clan in Orlu Division.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** The conditions necessary for the establishment of Post Offices are given in the White Paper on Post Offices which is to be presented to the House this session. It would be quite impossible financially to provide Post

Offices on the scale suggested. Apart from Post Offices, however, the Department is always prepared to consider the establishment of Postal Agencies and if any additional ones are thought necessary in Orlu Division, application should be made to the Territorial Controller, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Enugu, or the appropriate District Adviser.

*Question—*

**\*O.217. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will give the number of telephones in Orlu Division, naming the present subscribers.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** There is one telephone exchange in the Orlu Division, namely at Orlu. There are eleven subscribers whose names will be found in the telephone directory.

*Supplementary to O.217—*

**Chief S. L. Akintola:** What is the population of Orlu?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** The population is 375,000.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### THE APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL

#### FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY

(House in Committee)

#### HEAD 60.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

*Question proposed, That the sum of £36,990 for Head 60—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not move the first and second amendments as I would rather move the amendment to the Head generally, standing in my name.

**Chief V. Duro Phillips (Ijebu West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, a little less than a year ago, we had an opportunity of throwing hard words at our elegant Minister of Trade and Industry. We expected at our subsequent Budget Meeting to be satisfied that he would take heed of our hints and protestations, and that he would move with the times. I am, however, sorry that with the opportunity of another year which the hon. Minister had, he has proved to us that his Ministry has not justified its existence. Sir, the Ministry is very unproductive; it is a colossal failure in our race to

economic determination. It is the duty of hon. Members on that side of the House, on the N.C.N.C. benches, to listen when we are putting a word or two of advice to our hon. Ministers. We do not come here playfully to make our observations; whatever we say, we say it in good faith in the interest of the teeming millions of this country.

I venture to ask, Mr Chairman, Sir, in what respect has the hon. Minister promoted the trade of Nigeria: how many industries has he been able to set up? There has been a constant clamour for the setting up of industries in Owerri particularly—it is a pity that the hon. Abii is not here.

**The Chairman:** Are these arguments really addressed to Item (18), Sub-head 1?—because the hon. Gentleman is talking about the Minister and not the Chief Industrial Adviser.

**Chief Duro Phillips:** I thank you, Mr Chairman, Sir, I am making my observations with particular reference to Item 18, Sub-head 1 to reduce by £5, and in that respect, Sir, the official holding the post connected with this amendment is known as the Industrial Adviser and as such, Sir, we can only bring our views by laying some premises.

The Minister is responsible for the activities of the industrial advisory group and as such, Sir, I say that the setting up of the Industrial advisory group has not been productive. Whatever the advice this Group has given to the Minister, the country does not know, and the country has not as yet benefitted from it.

Sir, under the Estimates one sees that provision was made for the sum of £11,000 formerly provided in the 1956-57 Estimates, for the establishment of an industrial research team; for the appointment of one Chief Industrial Adviser; and, for two Industrial Advisers, all of them on contract. Sir, I venture to ask what is the advice that all these industrial advisers give to the hon. Minister? Instead of employing such an army of advisers, we demand that the Minister should roll up his sleeve and establish industries in several parts of the Federation.

Sir, I am throwing a little challenge on the Floor of this House to the hon. Minister that he should at the very next Session present a White Paper to this House setting out the achievement of his Ministry, with particular reference to the Industrial Advisory Group.

This Group, Sir, has not achieved anything of spectacular importance since the present Federal House has begun, and the only thing, Sir, that we can urge on the hon. Minister is for him to come down from the high pinnacle of his office, to answer our prayers for the setting up of specific industries.

The Minister had been advised last year, he was again advised this year that limestone is in abundance in Ijebu Division and that he should get up his team of industrial advisers to enquire into the possibility of production of limestone. Certainly he has not and, Mr Chairman, I move that this Item of Sub-Head 1 should be deleted accordingly.

**The Chairman:** The Motion is not to delete but that Sub-Head 1 be reduced by £5.

**Chief Duro Phillips:** Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to move that Sub-Head 1 item (18) should be accordingly reduced by £5.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Well, I rise to support hon. Chief Duro Phillips with specific reference to the creation of the new post of Chief Industrial Adviser.

This seems to be an age of advisers to the Minister. Hon. Members will notice that the post of Chief Industrial Adviser at contract rate comes under a new provision which is entitled "Industrial Advisory Group". Well, the whole of this Group appears to be entirely new and it involves the spending of a sizable sum of money over and above the previous year's estimates.

Now, in the first place, I question the wisdom of such a provision at this time. The price of our products has gone down considerably. In fact, the current year appears to be the worst for many years past. Is it now that the prices are going down, that the prospects are rather gloomy, that we can afford the luxury of having a Laponian Industrial Adviser? I feel that this is a wrong time to ask for the creation of this new post. That is my first ground for attacking this particular provision. I must repeat that the time is most inauspicious for the creation of this post.

Secondly, the Minister has time and again told us what the policy of his own Department is. He described his own role as that of a glorified spectator. The actors are the Regions: they are the people to start industries and he would be the fairy godfather merely to stand elegantly to watch how well they are doing it.

Well, if the part of the Ministry is that of a spectator, is it necessary for you to have an officer to tell you how to watch a game? I mean, that is the function of this Adviser. The Minister is a spectator, an onlooker, and I have never known of a person, however ignorant he may be, who will require an adviser to tell him how to watch a game. On that ground, I am opposing the creation of this new post.

Of course, if the Minister is prepared to tell us that he has now changed his policy, that he is prepared to enter actively into the building of industry, I may reconsider my stand. I will challenge him times without number on the Floor of this House that the Federal Minister should no longer be an onlooker. He must take an executive part in the industrialisation of this country. Why cannot the Federal Ministry go into the rural areas or into some urban areas to start some industries which perhaps the Regions cannot afford to enter into at the moment?

In spite of all we have said all these years the Minister still considers himself somebody to watch, somebody to advise other people. I feel that that function does not necessitate the retention of an Adviser on the same pedestal as our Minister himself—the Minister's salary is £3,000; that of his Adviser is £3,000. What an expensive Adviser! The Minister is wearing a crown; the Adviser too is wearing a crown, an expensive brand at that. £3,000 to advise you to watch other people starting industries! And he is not coming alone. He is coming with inducement addition which the Minister himself, in all his glory and elegance, has not got. And he is not even coming alone. If you look at the bottom of it you will notice that he is coming also with second in command—two Industrial Advisers, £5,000; two Secretary-Typists, and so many others.

Now, if Members take particular care to examine the effect of this new provision, that is through their provision for personal emoluments, increases in personal emoluments, and a few other smaller increases, the total increase of provision in this Department is in the neighbourhood of about £90,000, £90,000 or and above the provision for the previous year. Does that indicate that we are aware of the seriousness of our economic position at the moment? Is it now that we ought to increase personal emoluments and the provision for this particular item to the tune of £90,000? Well,

I am appealing to all sides of the House that this is not a political issue. This is an economic issue which touches every part of the country. Can we afford that now?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Yes.

**Chief Akintola:** Yes, I appreciate my Friend. Those who do not understand hon. Jaja's language will have the feeling that he does not agree with me. He expresses his negatives always in the affirmative.

On this particular score I will appeal to the House to reject the creation of the post of Industrial Adviser.

Now, I will go to the next point on that. The Adviser may or may not have been employed yet. But judged by previous experience, it is likely that the Adviser is already here or he may be on the way. What about the advisers—not the Chief now: the Chief will be on £3,000. What about the two Industrial Advisers who are not Chiefs yet? Are they expatriates?

**An hon. Member:** They are small Chiefs.

**Chief Akintola:** They say they are small Chiefs. I hope that the Chiefs will resent these slanders. These are no Chiefs; they are mis-chiefs.

Now, if it is inescapable—and perhaps Party loyalty will demand that even Members on my right will vote against their conscience—I will appeal to them that the two Industrial Advisers should be Nigerians. People may ask, why do I feel that they should be Nigerians? What do these Industrial Officers do? They are not technical people. They are people the sum total of whose experience will be less than that of hon. Ojukwu or some other experienced businessmen on the Floor of this House. People like this, either as part-time officers, should be consulted and leave these two Assistants alone since they are not going to start industries themselves. They are merely to offer advice; why do we have to employ them and pay as much as £5,000 for their offering this advice? That is exclusive of inducement and other allowances.

I know that these men may be called upon to offer expert advice. There is such a thing as expert ignorance too and there are people who are competent to offer advice even on a subject like stupidity. The word 'expert' does not mean anything at all. What I consider to be important in this respect is industrial experience. If they are technical people to come and start

industries I agree, but they would not be technical people. They would be mere men of experience who would be able to say whether you can get the money for this or not, whether that is the proper site for it or not, whether communication there is better or not.

I am of opinion that there are Africans both in the Ministry and outside who can fill the post of ordinary advisers, that is granting that we are prepared to have this other Adviser at £3,000 a year.

I am not going to belabour the point at this stage except to underline once again that the Minister is seriously overdue for a change of heart. The policy that he has enunciated on the Floor of this House from time to time has been most unconvincing. It is unconvincing in the sense that if the Minister is not careful he will turn the whole of this country against the Federal House of Representatives. There is an ingenuous way of doing it. If we are not productive, if we are not doing anything for the people, if we leave the whole thing to the Regions to run, very soon we may be forgotten and of course when we are forgotten the very first person to be forgotten will be the elegant Minister himself and I can foresee an elegant picture of him hanging somewhere in the museum of antiquity.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. R. A. Njoku):** Mr Chairman, the first speaker who moved this Motion, Mr Duro Phillips, started by talking about an array of industrial advisers. I want to assure him that these people are so rare to come by now that we have been able to get only one of the three. So there is no question of array. Chief Akintola talked about a battalion of industrial advisers. That is an exaggeration as well. Chief Akintola was speaking about the necessity of having this group. He has forgotten, even though he is Leader of the Opposition, that last year this was approved as a one-line token vote of £11,000 for the establishment of this group because we are all very much aware of the importance of having people who have got, not as he says no skill at all, but people who have got skill either managerial, engineering or both. You cannot come by this sort of people very easily.

He talked of £3,000 as something very high or exorbitant. I can tell him that we have not been able to attract anybody of the right calibre at this rate we offer: we can hardly get a person for even £5,000. That is just by the way.

Coming to the question of what these people do and what the Minister is supposed to do, I think it is very important that the Leader of the Opposition should try to understand the policy of Government. I concede to him that he is there to oppose but he must oppose reasonably and before you oppose you must try to understand what the Government proposes to do. I have told him again and again that the policy of this Government on industrialisation has been based on the recommendation of the International Bank; that it has also been endorsed by the National Economic Council representing all the Governments of this Federation. This Ministry, with the departments responsible to it, is supposed to stimulate and where necessary to take part in the establishment of major industries of concern to more than one Region, industries of national importance. That is why we have had one already. We have had the cement industry which will profit the whole country.

Chief Duro Phillips was asking me about the limestone in Ijebu Ode. He was saying that I must send my industrial adviser to go there and dig up limestone and start a cottage industry. That is not our duty I am sorry to say.

**Chief V. Duro Phillips (Ijebu West):** Point of order. I would like the hon. Minister to know that it was only last week that this House passed a Motion concerning the setting up of industries and amongst other subjects limestone was mentioned. The Minister was then away.

**The Chairman:** That is no point of order.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry:** All the Governments of the Federation have agreed that this Government should provide funds and technical assistance through the Department of Commerce and Industries towards the establishment of major industries and we are considering quite a number of industries now which are being proposed by some of the Regions. I wish Members to take this seriously; there is no point coming here all the time talking about industries for every hamlet in the place. That is not our policy. The establishment of cottage industries is the responsibility of the Regional Governments through the Development Corporation and such bodies as they have. We

are concerned with major industries and, as I said, a few of these projects are now being considered.

Talking about the work of the industrial advisory group, it seems to me that some of the Members of the Opposition do not appreciate that if you have not got people with the right experience to meet foreign industrialists or expatriate industrialists coming into this country, discussing their plans with them, telling them where local raw materials are available and getting them in touch with the various agencies interested in the industrialisation of this country, you will get nothing done. My Ministry and Department have a claim because we are the people responsible for that: we give the information to the people that come. If I may cite an example of the establishment of industries by local people, there is one at Mushin and it has cost a Nigerian company more than £150,000. But for the technical advice given by my officials (as a matter of fact we have one industrial officer working there in the textile mill), that mill would have closed down because the people who started it had not got the technical know-how. But you would not know that.

There will be another opportunity for me to give more information on this. I think I have said enough to show that the industrial advisory group is welcome and that Members should urge that the full team should be recruited without any further delay.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, the only mistake that was made as far as I can see on this particular item is that in the Memorandum there is no explanation included to explain why this new Head was included. But with regard to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition it appears that he did not read the amendment carefully, because Chief Duro Phillips did not ask that this House should reject this Head at all. He only wanted to criticise the Head and make some complaint. But Chief Akintola is now asking this House to reject this Head altogether. Certainly this House cannot agree to that because this particular Head had been approved last year by this House.

We want industrial advice and you cannot give advice without technical knowledge. Sir,

it would be calamitous for the Department of Commerce and Industries to work without advisers in this field.

Now, Chief Duro Phillips said there is limestone in Ijebu-Ode: surely, if there is, and he brings information to the Ministry, it would not be the duty of the Minister to go to Ijebu-Ode to assess the value of that limestone; surely his advisers will be deputed to examine the possibilities of these deposits there. But, if you have not got the advisers, who will do the work?

The argument is that this Item is not necessary: I say that it is very necessary because somebody must come to assess the value and it is the technical adviser who should do that, and even the Minister has pointed out that we have not got the technical know-how ourselves. We all hope to have Independence shortly: now, are we not going to lay the foundation for industrial development?

Sir, we have various products in this country—agricultural products—and, to build up industry around these, there must be people or a section of the Ministry concerned with the day-to-day examination—month-to-month, year-to-year examination—of the possibilities, so as to compile a library of information for those who come to assist us with our industrialization. Well, if you have not got technical advisers to do this work it will be absolutely impossible. Therefore, the whole of this Item—the whole section here—should, in fact, as time goes on, be increased.

I agree with the Leader of the Opposition on one point, when he said that attempts should be made to see to it, at this initial stage, that we should include amongst the number of our technical advisers some of our Nigerian economists—because we do have some of those: they are nationalists, fully qualified—who will be associated with this advice. That is one point to which we should call the attention of the Minister. This should be done with a view to producing Nigerians who can carry on this work in the near future.

With the exception of this point, Sir, I think the Leader of the Opposition's argument fail completely because the Mover of this Amendment does not say that we should reject this Item and he has no right now to move that we should reject it. I do ask the House not to

pay attention to the argument of the Leader of the Opposition and I move, That the question be now put.

*Amendment, To reduce Item (18), Sub-head 1, by £5, put and negatived.*

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I think this is one of the Ministries that has, from time to time, been subjected to gross misunderstanding. We are all, Sir, anxious to have industrialization, and all anxious to see that trade and commerce in this country is expanded, but I think that critics are very often unfair when they fail to take due notice of the fact that this is a Ministry which has enjoyed some degree of success. And, while we might venture to criticise where criticism is necessary, I think also we ought to recognise some of the achievements of the Ministry.

Sir, not long ago it was reported to us in this House—and it was very warmly received—that, through the activities of the Department of Marketing and Exports, quite apart from the fact that there was a steep fall in the price of cocoa, our exports showed an increase of £2 million over what it was in the previous year. Now, that is a matter upon which we ought to congratulate the Government. And, Sir it was also pointed out to this House that the volume of trade last year showed an increase of £7.8 million over the previous year; we were also informed about the move to have a Sugar Industry established in this country.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** What of the balance of trade?

**Mr Akwivu:** Sir, these are events of achievement and I feel it would, at least, encourage the people concerned if we were to acknowledge this improvement in our trade situation and ask them to do more.

Sir, in the trade figures that we were given we were also informed that a fair proportion of our import trade is now being done by Nigerians. It was reported, Sir, that in the importation of flour Nigerians were now importing 28 per cent of the total imports, which was an increase, also, Sir, we were shown that other lines of importation—from Japan and other places—were on the increase.

But, Sir, I would respectfully suggest that there is room for improvement. In this country now there is very great need for capital

and we must not ignore what is already in this country. Sir, in the Import Trade, particularly in the merchandise lines, there is what I am going to submit as a wasteful competition going on. The expatriate firms have very large capital which can be devoted to the greater benefit to themselves and to this country. Indigenous traders are showing more and more interest in the importation of some lines of merchandise, and I respectfully submit that the time has come when the Ministry ought to look into the matter so that capital is not wasted in unnecessary competition.

What we want is that capital should be invested in something which will benefit all concerned; the Ministry should try to decide which lines should be concentrated on by the expatriate concerns and those which should be left to the indigenous traders. To be more specific, Sir: I do not see why a poor trader in this country should have to borrow money in order to be able to struggle desperately in the importation of second hand clothing in competition with expatriate concerns which have a large capital at their disposal. That is something that could be left to the ordinary poor people to make whatever profit they can out of it, whilst the larger firms reserve their efforts for the importation of other lines of merchandise.

Also Sir, it is not only that we are wasting capital available in this country, but we are also wasting the dignity and human resources of this country in this wanton competition.

Sir, in some areas of this country, trade in imported goods has degenerated into what might be called street hawking, both by the expatriate importing firms, by the African middle-men and by the African importers as well. I do not think, Sir, it would make a very fine sight to watch some of the dignified gentlemen here scrambling over visiting traders along the Marina. I think it is a very poor show.

I think, Sir, the Ministry should investigate the whole trade in imported merchandise and find out really those lines of trade that could be left to the poorer Nigerian importers. The Licensing Scheme is already in operation in some aspects and I feel that it could be extended whilst we released the hands of the already over-worked expatriate firms to think in terms of sugar manufacture, manufacturing of tyres and things, and I feel, Sir, that in so

doing there will be a very efficient distribution of commercial responsibilities, and that the end will be happy for everybody concerned.

Sir, another point I wish to mention is the question of the Loans Board which was established last year. We were given to understand in this House, Sir, that the object of establishing the Loans Board was to lend financial aid to aspiring industrialists. I did not think, Sir, that there was any restriction made by this House or by the Minister himself, but there is some fairly reliable information to the effect that the Industrial Loans Board has decided to keep out some forms or some aspects of industrial development. I am given to understand, Sir, that they restricted the loans to helping only existing industries.

Well, Mr Chairman, Sir, it is left for everyone in this House to know how many industries we have established in this country. If we have so many then there would probably not have been the need for the Ordinance. But I venture to submit, Sir, that the important factor behind the creation of the Board was to assist those who could not, but really showed a genuine desire and ability to establish one, and also to put on their feet all the existing ones, to help them out of difficulty, if they so need. But, Sir, I think it is unfair, and it runs completely contrary to the same legislation, if the Loans Board will go to say that they are only going to help the industries that are already in existence. I repeat, Sir, that it completely defeats the objective, and it is a matter which I feel the Minister, if he is informed of that situation, should give his immediate attention to.

If my information is correct, I believe he has got his powers under Section 29 of the Industrial Loans Ordinance, to call for the decision, make his comments, and give his advice.

I think it will annoy this House a good deal if this situation were to be true.

Now, Sir, I think finally on the issue of industrial advice, we are glad to note that we have advisers who can help enquirers; but we are asking, Sir, that some further investigation be made at the instance of the department itself to find and use, if possible, a catalogue of fairly modest industries that aspirants in this country can get their hands on. One often asks, Sir, that enquiries when they are made at some time to get any answers at all. In

certain industrial aspects one would expect to have some rough and ready answer, but one has to wait for the enquiry or investigation or whatever you call it to start right from scratch, and this takes a very long time. I think this is beginning to have a very discouraging effect on our industrialisation.

Finally, Sir, on this issue of specific import licences, I feel that even though it is said that Nigerians are now enjoying a greater share of the import trade, I feel that the share of Nigerians can be increased with the importation of these licensed goods. I see no reason why African businessmen, or bakers, or African traders or middle-men who could very well and easily trade on about 25 to 30 or 50 tons of flour in a month should be restricted to 5 tons or one quarter. I think, Sir, it is unfair if a man feels he can do the trade by all means allow him to do it. I think it is unfair to give a man merely 5 tons or 10 tons, when he can well use 100 tons. The next thing happens is that it gets him the little that he is allowed, and he gets from others, when he could have easily got his own. The same goes for the other licenses.

As a matter of fact I do not remember coming across in a place like Port Harcourt, or other places I know, traders or anyone who has got any permit at all or any special permit for importing goods from Japan. I think, Sir, they are very few and far between, and I hope the 17% is not confined to Lagos and its surroundings. We in the provinces are very keen traders and we are interested in these things, and we implore you, Sir, to step up the portion given to the indigenous Nigerian traders in every case where permits are given.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, Sir, the intention of moving to reduce this Head by £10 is to draw the attention of the Minister of Trade and Industry to the fact that much as he might have done, much as he may be doing now and will be doing in future to facilitate the production of our economic wealth, not much has been done; as a matter of fact very little has been done to facilitate the movement of these exports, these our products, abroad.

Sir, we have had information that from arrangements made by some departments under this Ministry, maybe Marketing and

Exports, about the evacuation of products and about the bringing in of imports from abroad, that there is a bottle-neck, and that bottle-neck is killing our trade. That is why I am taking up this quarrel with the Minister of Trade and Industry.

He cannot claim that he knew nothing about it because as I understood, delegates have waited upon him to see that this bottle-neck is removed. In particular I am referring to the stranglehold that some shipping line called Conference Lines seems to be having on our trade here. Who has arranged with the Conference Lines to evacuate our products? Who has put the monopoly into their hands? Why is it that no other shipping line can evacuate our products? Why is it that no goods can come from abroad except through Conference Lines? You see people have appealed to our Ministry of Trade and Industry to smooth this thing out, but nothing has been done. As a matter of fact, Sir, it seems to me that this is one other way of killing our trade. What is the value of the Apapa Wharf Extension if all that we do is to abdicate in favour of some shipping line which will be unable to meet our needs? The fact is this that goods are piling up in this country, and if nothing is done to facilitate the movement of them you are killing trade, and it is this killing of trade, the aspect of it, that I am spotlighting. It is no use telling me that that is the concern of some other Ministry. The special field of this Ministry is to facilitate trade, and if there is anything that is creating a bottle-neck to the movement of trade, I think it is the duty of this Ministry to see that that thing is removed.

Sir, I find that great need of this country for getting our produce abroad needs not be emphasised. For you will see that sometimes there is a slump in some particular Nigerian produce not because there is no one wanting it abroad, but the difficulty of getting it to them. You see, I am told by a tradesman "My principals abroad would like 2,000 tons of this, 2,000 tons of that, but I only have shipping space for 50 tons and therefore I have to tell my customers I cannot buy much more. There is no room to store them. And if I store them they will deteriorate". Now, if our goods cannot get abroad, how are we going to get this money, immediate capital for economic expansion?

And then, what happens? It means that since these Conference Lines are having a virtual monopoly of the evacuation of our produce, it stands to reason that no other shipping lines would like to come in because there will be nothing to carry for them, and so unless the Ministry of Trade and Industry does something, in conjunction with other Ministry is responsible for this to see that there is regular flow of trade, this country is being subjected to economic strangulation. And I do hope—I won't call him elegant this time because I want him really to be up and doing—I hope this our Minister will see to it that all these bottle-necks are removed and that there is free movement of trade both import and export.

Sir, it seems to me that the seriousness of it is brought much more to the front during the Suez Canal crisis, when the prices went up by five shillings. It was temporary, and then this thing that they said was temporary has now been superimposed by another five shillings because, they say, ships have to go around the Cape. The point is if other shipping lines can come here, can't they reduce the congestion? Surely the Minister of Trade and Industry cannot sit with his arms folded and do nothing about it. If he will only let us know whether or not he has had delegations waiting upon him in this matter, and let us know what he has done about it, he might allay the fears of the country.

Sir, the time is now overdue when we must have something done to remove the economic strangulation of any Conference Line, or any other line whatever upon our trade and industry.

**M. Ahmadu Fatika (North Zaria):** Sir, I rise to support the expenditure on this Head and in doing so I should like to make a few observations. This Ministry is very important to the progress and economy of this country and it is for this reason, Sir, that in any Budget Session I have felt it is necessary to criticise the Ministry especially for its policy concerning the establishment of industries throughout Nigeria, but I am pleased now and I have to congratulate the Minister of Trade and Industry for inviting an expert to advise on the possibility of making sugar who visited Makarfi. I have to remind the Minister that there is an abundance of sugar cane at Anchau besides Makarfi and I hope when deciding the establishment of the industry Anchau will



not be neglected. And I hope the report of Mr A. C. Barnes will come out as early as possible.

Sir, before concluding my remarks I should like to touch a very important matter in this Ministry, that is trading. In any Budget Session many Members criticise the way the foreign firms and aliens monopolise trades that indigenous Nigerians could do, and this is worst in the Northern Region, but still the Minister of Trade and Industry keeps silent on this very important matter. These foreigners, Sir, are here only to take away our richness and leave the country. Therefore I appeal once again to the Minister of Trade and Industry to take urgent action by implementing a law in such a way that will guard the interests of our Nigerian traders.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to point out to the Minister that our businessmen have started to realise the benefit of trade with people outside Nigeria, but unfortunately they are not encouraged at all, and this can be justified by seeing the difficulties they come across when applying for import or export licences. They are deprived of getting the licences. But what happens to the foreign firms or aliens? To them it is quite easy. Sir, if this kind of discrimination is allowed to continue in this country, it means that we are helping imperialists against indigenous businessmen, which is very bad. Therefore I hope our bold Minister of Trade and Industry will take bold action for the interests of Nigerians.

With these few remarks, I support the expenditure.

**Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai):** Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose this Motion which seeks to reduce this Head of the Estimates by £10. It is no reflection on the ability of the Mover of this Motion if I suggest that it shows he has not paid sufficient attention to the work and policy of this Ministry. The Minister has on many occasions pointed out that the Federal Department of Trade and Industry is not a department, as it were, catering for only the Federal Territory of Lagos. It is a Department composed and formed to co-ordinate industrial efforts in the whole of the Federation. Its advisers are appointed to the Ministry, they are advisers to the whole industrial efforts made by both the Regional and other

authorities concerned with industrialisation of this country.

Now, Sir, the hon. the Mover has referred in a rather deprecatory manner to one of the most important legislations which this Department has brought to being in this country. I refer to the Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) Ordinance which was passed last year. Now, the question about the progress of industry in this country hinges more or less on the availability of capital, and the indigenous people of this country do not engage in industrialisation because they have no finance. That Ordinance seeks to provide a remedy to that subject; the Ordinance is made to give loans at very low rates of interest to Africans who want to engage in industry. Now, the hon. the Mover could not say in such an ordinance that anybody who wants to establish an industry, who has never engaged in any type of industry, who has no knowledge at all of any industry whatever, could by merely standing up and saying "I want to industrialise the country," the people should rush and give him a loan. No. I say that before that Ordinance applies to somebody, that somebody must be able to satisfy the country that he has got the ability, he has got the knowledge, or he has got the means, to provide such things. There must be a nucleus of some sort of business for which a loan is required, otherwise you will soon find people giving money to people who have no intention at all, giving money to debtors to pay their debts, in other words. So that instead of blaming the Board for making a sort of scrutiny as to the ability or the intention of people who want loans before giving loans, I think we should praise the Loans Board because it is doing exactly what the House expects it to do. When we passed the Ordinance, we did not expect the Ordinance to be used as a means of throwing away our money.

Now, Sir, there is one point which Members who are so critical of government not rushing to industrial production often omit to notice. In this country, industrialisation of the country must proceed at a rate at which it is capable for Nigerians to follow. What do I mean by that? You must go on at a rate in which our industrial project must be by Nigerians for Nigeria. It is very easy for us to ask perhaps one of the industrial lords in England to establish a motor industry that will stretch from

Lagos to Oshodi: it could not be done, but that would be an industrial project in which the Nigerian would play the role of wage-earner only. If you want industrialisation that will be established and worked by Nigerians, you have got to make it at a pace the country will be able to follow. You can invite industrialists from any part of the world; if they are willing to come out, they will come out and establish industries but you will only be establishing industries that are run by foreigners—by foreign enterprise and not by us. I say that the Ministry will not be silly enough to engage in such a policy.

The Ministry is pursuing a much wiser and nationalistic policy, a policy in which we want to bring industrialisation in such a gradual manner, that it will be an industrialisation by the country and for the country. (*Hear, hear.*) (*Interruption.*) I am not giving way. So I say Sir that instead of coming here and making flamboyant speeches about industrialisation, we should try to understand the condition of the country. I will tell you what the Government is doing: the Government knows that you can not industrialise the country without sufficient capital; the Government has put up an economic programme; there is a wide range of increased power and electricity production has risen in this country: we have no other means of industrialisation except by electricity. The Government has a great programme for electrifying this country and making electricity cheaper. The Government has not only done that, the Government has given a wide training in all the institutions to the training of technicians—men who will be able to make use of their hands and their brains when it comes to industrialisation. We are not going to industrialise by getting trained men from other countries. The Government is now training technicians, read and mark what the Government is doing.

We want to industrialise the country by the country and for the country and that is what the Government is doing. I am telling Members what they do not know. Instead of coming to the House and shouting to the moon, we should study what the Minister has been trying to do, we should try to understand his policy. He is doing everything to uplift the prosperity of this country; he has established advisory bodies in order to advise those who might need advice.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** I understand the Minister is doing everything: does that include Rock-n-Roll?

**Mr J. M. Udochi:** We all want to see this country industrialised, do not let us run away with the belief that industrialisation is something that can come over-night. (*Chief S. L. Akintola: Who is saying that?*) The Minister is bringing out people who will be able to advise us; so he is doing something to industrialise the country.

Everything that is desirable is not always expedient. We cannot expect our Government to use the resources at our disposal to engage in industrial production. What I mean is, the Government setting up a motor factory and producing and manufacturing motor cars: we cannot expect our Government to do that, with the present resources. Our Government has got some other priority, such as education projects for this country, and such as improving our natural resources. The Government will have to use its money in that direction at this stage of our development, in order to see that if industrialisation eventually comes, it will come to stay.

Mr Chairman, with those few remarks, I beg to oppose the Motion.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr R. A. Njoku):** Mr Chairman on this Floor I must say that I appreciate the very constructive way in which Mr Akwivu made his comments. He stressed the importance of encouraging Nigerian participation in trade in this country. He quoted some figures but I can assure the House that this year's figures may even exceed the figures that he quoted. For instance, dealing with commodities which are subject to licensing, I think I should say that Nigerian businessmen's interests are of a limited range; they are interested for instance in flour, second-hand clothing and imports from Japan. They are not interested in air conditioning apparatus or heavy types of machinery and so on. I will deal with those in which they have shown interest.

In 1955 the percentage of flour that went into Nigerian hands was 28 and, when I quote this percentage, I mean for the whole country and I am also including imports which are made by big firms like U.A.C., John Holt, and the Leventine firms, Lebanese and the Syrians. Everything is put in the "hotch-potch" and the

Nigerians had a share of 28 per cent of it in 1955 and last year it rose to 32 per cent. (*Chief S. L. Akintola : Too small.*)

When you come to second-hand clothing, the percentage rose from 80 per cent in 1955 to 82 in 1956. For Japanese goods, the percentage rose from 14.9 in 1955 to 17.5. I am saying these things to show the Members that a deliberate attempt is being made to make sure that the Nigerian participation is increasing year by year.

I have had the traders in various imports divided into categories, because when we had them all together it was difficult to find out how much was going to Nigerian businessmen as such and, as I have these now divided into categories A, B and C, I can keep a very vigilant eye on the Nigerian members of the various categories.

Mr Akwivu also mentioned the difficulty which traders are experiencing, especially Nigerians, owing to over-stocking of their stalls. When commodities are selling at a profit, the tendency is for businessmen to over-stock and naturally, the price goes down. It is the policy of the Ministry, to maintain a balance, so that while the importer has a reasonable margin of profit, the price position must be such that the price does not go too high, otherwise the ultimate consumer will suffer. So we are keeping that balance very much in mind in order to make sure that whereas the importer does not lose his money, he does not get too much profit either, otherwise it is the ultimate consumer that suffers.

I do not know where Mr Akwivu is now but I think I can take this opportunity to announce that this year the Minister has decided to curtail the imports from Japan. We know that there is now a tendency for people to over-stock goods from Japan and, therefore, the businessmen themselves may suffer. This step is being taken also to help in restoring the balance of trade. My Colleague, the hon. Financial Secretary, and myself have spoken at length about this and make no apologies whatsoever for the state of our balance of trade last year and this year. It is a sign that the economic programme is being carried out. A lot of this money is being spent on capital goods and when you spend your money on capital goods, you are investing indirectly.

Mr Akwivu also mentioned the question of expatriate firms rivalling the Nigerian firms

dealing in the same commodities. I am glad also to announce that the major expatriate firms (some of them anyway) are gradually moving away from the cheaper consumer goods such as textiles and moving to technical ones, so as to give the African importers a chance. It will be a change, a very pleasant change, if the Leader of the Opposition can appreciate what is good, and I think he ought to appreciate that these people, of their own accord, are moving away from the more common consumer goods to give way to Africans who are now entering the trade.

Mr Akwivu also spoke at length about the import of flour. Well, no trader, be he Nigerian or expatriate, will be allowed to import as much as he can when he is spending dollars and our dollar income has got to be watched. That is the reason why we have this licensing programme. All the imports that involve the spending of dollars or some other scarce currency have got to be watched. From the figures which I have quoted, I think Members will be assured that more and more of this trade—flour, Japanese imports and second-hand clothing—is going into the hands of Africans.

I now come to my friend, Chief Solaru. He spoke at length about the amalgamation of a group of Shipping Companies. Now, these people deal with the export of Nigerian produce, the produce that is handled by the Marketing Board. There is a central selling organisation for the whole of Nigeria, as Members well know: that is the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company with its headquarters in London. This Company acts as the selling organisation for the Central Marketing Board which is responsible for the evacuation and export of these products from Nigeria. The Nigerian Produce Marketing Company is making a very good job of its responsibility and I think Members have on several occasions congratulated them on the success of their operations.

Chief Solaru spoke about accumulation of certain commodities for export. I think he must have been referring to timber: because of its bulk, timber is the one most liable to accumulation. There was a certain amount of accumulation but that was due, as I stated in an answer to a question which was asked by an hon. Member, to the fact that more timber came in than was usually the case at this time of the year and steps have been taken to clear the timber.

Now, he referred to an expatriate businessman who said that he could export more but he had

not the shipping space. I think that man must be dealing in non-Marketing Board produce, that is those commodities that are not reserved by law for the Marketing Boards to deal with—things like, as I mentioned already, timber, rubber, hides and skins and so on. Well, if this expatriate businessman is really interested in exporting and he has the stuff he wants to export, there is nothing to prevent him from shipping his products through other shipping lines. There is no monopoly.

What I want to emphasise is this. The Conference Lines are in agreement with the Marketing Company in London for the evacuation of the produce handled by the Marketing Boards. As far as other produce is concerned, there is no monopoly of any sort and any shipper is welcome to it. The Marketing Company naturally has got to obtain for the producers of this country the best terms and therefore any Shipping Company or group of companies which gives it the best terms will be accepted by agreement and these agreements are subject to review from time to time.

I think I have answered also the point raised by my friend from the North about licences. It is a very satisfactory and healthy sign that Members from all parts of Nigeria are becoming more interested in the question of Nigerians taking part in the import and export trade. It is a very good sign and I think the Ministry is meeting the wishes of Members by the fact that the amount of trade, both import and export, which is going into the hands of indigenous Nigerians is increasing year by year, and this year the percentage will increase also.

Finally, Sir, I think I should say that it is my very great consolation that even though some people who have never attempted to establish industries, like the Leader of the Opposition, do not appreciate what is being done by my Ministry and my Department, the industrialists themselves, both expatriate and Nigerians, have always shown great appreciation and gratitude for the help they are getting from the Ministry.

**The Chairman :** It is time for a short break now and I suspend the sitting for a quarter of an hour. I propose to call on Mr Fani-Kayode when we resume.

*Sitting Suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) :** Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to support the request for the reduction of this Head by the sum of £10. First and foremost I would like to remind the hon. Minister in charge of this Department that the Opposition as far back as 1955 had requested the Government to reduce the licences for the importation of Japanese goods in view of the fact that at that time only £8 worth of goods were exported from Nigeria to Japan. I am very happy that, as the Leader of the Opposition always calls it, the Minister has at last been favoured with hind-sight instead of foresight. We always bring out requests for these innovations at a time the Minister opposed such a request; but we are very happy to note that he is following the advice given to him by the Leader of the Opposition.

The next point I must make is to support my hon. Friend on this side of the House who called for the protection of African traders by the Department of the hon. Minister. I should like to state that the Minister could not be fully aware of what happens to Japanese licences issued by his department. Furthermore, he cannot be fully aware of the licences issued for the importation of second-hand clothing from the United States. I am saying this with all sense of responsibility that if the Minister had been aware of what is going on in his own department of Commerce and Industries he will not be so happy when he said that a large percentage of business is being placed in the hands of Africans. It is true that Japanese licences and licences for the importation of goods from the United States are issued in the name of Africans, but I can assure the Minister that most of these names are names of fictitious people.

It is the principle and the policy of the Department of Commerce and Industries that these licences are not transferable. But what do you find? You will find that members of the staff of Commerce and Industries are behind the most colossal fraud and racket of this decade and I shall bring a specific instance of a definite member of that department and I shall name him, and I shall give instances of fraud. The police have heard of this thing but nothing has been done.

**An hon. Member :** Don't do it.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** I am bound to give his name because the hon. Minister will soon tell me I am bringing vague charges before this

House and to show that I am responsible I shall name the officer in question. If an African member of the Department commits fraud very quickly you will find the Attorney-General moving into action and soon you will find the man in the dock and Gentlemen of the Bar are called to defend him. You will find the case of an African very recently who had to be brought miles away to answer charges in this country. The system of the racket is very simple. What happens? This House made the policy that Africans should be given preference when it comes to the issue of licences. What happens? The officer in charge issues licences in the name of Africans and then you will find that these licences are sold to Syrians and Lebanese and then the licences will be endorsed "the goods are to be ordered through Mr 'X', the Syrian or Lebanese."

In the second case you will find that the department issues licences for the importation of second-hand clothing from the United States. The same officer later on re-endorses the licence and amends it to bring in nylon materials. These are instances of cases I have seen.

**An hon. Member :** Name him.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** I shall name him.

**The Chairman :** I must say something about the last few words of the hon. Member. The naming of an individual; if he is a member of the public service is very much deprecated in the House of Commons in London. It is, after all, not a humble individual whom one should attack in this House but the Minister. It is the Minister responsible to protect his subordinates and in general I do deprecate the naming of individuals in the public service.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** I will follow your ruling, Sir, and I shall then attack the Minister indirectly, but whenever I attack the Minister he must remember I am not attacking him but I am attacking that fraudulent person in his Department. The Minister has been conniving at fraud, the Minister has been abetting fraud and the Minister has escaped justice by not being brought before the Court, and the sooner the hon. Minister stops all these fraudulent practices in his Department the sooner trade will be made better for the African traders.

**The Chairman :** When I come to read 'Hansard' tomorrow I shall rather regret not having challenged the phrase "the Minister has been abetting fraud." That might be

ruled out as unparliamentary. The hon. Member might say instead, "The Minister has not prevented fraudulent practices obtaining in his Department." I think it is what the hon. Gentleman really means.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** This matter is so serious that I have been trying, as I said before, not to attack the Minister. The Minister knows full well that I do not mean for once that he has been abetting fraud. In fact, I said that the Minister could not be aware of these fraudulent practices but in order to show the feeling of this side of the House I had to comply directly with the ruling of the Chair that the attack must be on the Minister. But, in all seriousness, we are hoping that this officer should be brought to book as soon as possible.

Secondly, on the issue of Japanese licences the hon. Minister could not be aware that up till to-day Syrians hold in their possession over ninety per cent of the permits issued to Africans. I hope the Minister will take care to seek out this information and find out whether it is true and we hope that before the end of this Session he might be able to give us some facts if he can get them.

Lastly, in support of what the Leader of the Opposition said on this point, I believe that the Minister himself is not doing sufficient enough to look after his Department. I am sure he has got able heads of Department, Permanent Secretaries, who should do these things. He should not busy himself only with the affairs of policy; he should go directly into the working of the Department and if he feels that the inquiry is due he should be bold enough (as has been said by an hon. Member from this side of the House) to institute an inquiry into the Department of Commerce and Industries if he feels that the allegations brought before this House are justified.

To end it all, I shall have to beg the Minister for Trade and Industry that the less he acts the rock and roll Minister in this House the better, in that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said that the hon. Minister has become the Elvis Presley of the Federal Legislature. All that he does—instead of giving us facts and figures, instead of dealing with his Department, instead of bringing industry to Owerri—is to come before this House and give us vague terms about what he intends to do. We hope that at the next Session we shall have concrete

work that has been done by this Minister and, at that stage, I can assure him that all Members on this side of the House will be the first to applaud him.

**Mr A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Amendment. It is not my wish, Sir, to criticise the Ministry of Trade and Industry so heavily but I would like to point out that there is nothing to show that there is any sign of activity under this Ministry. I do not say that this Ministry is wholly redundant but that it should be more alive: there is no sign of improvement in trade, nor any sign of industry of any nature.

For example, there is a local Honey Industry in the Northern Region: this needs improvement by encouraging the local people. They can be taught how to tin their product. Ilorin is known for port making: this also needs much improvement. We learn of shoe and cotton factories in the North, as well as other useful industries in the East and West, but nothing is done by the Federal Government.

The Federal Government should be more alive and not allow Regional Governments to lead in all things. Industrialization must take quick effect in Nigeria as from this very moment.

I would advise that the Minister concerned should let us have a film show of activity in his Ministry. He should by this time have established modern factories, including an armaments factory to produce ammunition of our own. We hope to live in peace but we should not forget all about war.

What attempt has this Ministry made to establish firms in Nigeria and overseas?

Mr Chairman, Sir, to my surprise we have a reduction in the price of cocoa in the world market but in Nigeria there is no reduction in price of the manufactured cocoa; this means that Nigeria is losing both ways—that is by selling cocoa overseas at a reduced price and by buying it at home at the same old price.

Sir, I support the reduction.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West)** 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 Head 60—Ministry of Trade and Industry—be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 61—COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

*Question proposed, That £175,880 for Head 61—Commerce and Industries—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Chief V. Duro Phillips (Ijebu West) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, the object of our filing this Amendment to reduce sub-head 28 by £10, is to show our disagreement with the set-up of this particular section of the Commerce and Industries Department: that is the section of The Institute of Applied Technical Research. Here, Sir, is another instance where the Ministry of Trade and Industry is guilty of "squandermania".

Last year we were presented with an identical set of Estimates with those we have this year under this particular section. But the question arises, Sir: into what is the Ministry making this research? Here, under Sub-head 28 we have: one Head of Research, £3,000—he earns exactly the same salary as the hon. Minister himself; Chief Scientific Officer, £2,500; we have yet again one Principal Scientific Officer, £1,940; then we have three Senior Scientific Officers at £1,180 each and still we have the usual array of secretary-typists and stenographers.

The principal question arises: what has been the result of the research that is being made by this particular section of the Ministry? How have we benefited by the results of the research? I think it would have been proper, Sir, if the Minister had convinced himself by, at least, appointing one Research Officer—one will suffice the Ministry—instead of appointing an array of about eight Scientific Officers and Research Officers.

Mr Chairman, I do not intend to speak at length on this Sub-head but I think it would be proper to move that the Estimate on this Sub-head should be reduced by £10, to show our disagreement with the policy of the Minister.

Accordingly, Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed, To reduce Sub-head 28 by £10.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** I am supporting this particular Amendment. I

think that a case has been made out for the Minister to answer.

The hon. the Mover asked what these people are expected to make research into. We have advisers already and what would be the function of the men in this particular Department and how often do they publish results of the research which they are conducting? And, if this particular Department must have such a large number of research workers, what is the use of the research which is being conducted in other spheres?

I know for certain that most of the commercial houses here, especially Unilever, have their own research sections; the I.C.I., although it has no actual branch in this country, is conducting research into our raw materials and practically all the people—the commercial firms—who are interested in the local materials here are conducting their own research. Now, why do we have to keep this large number of people on conducting research for us? Why are we not satisfied with the results that are being achieved by the expatriate officers that we have in the Department?

I am afraid that this particular section of the Ministry, being a *quasi*-Government Department, will not be in a position to conduct research effectively. There are people who can do it much better. Why do we not leave the question of research in the hands of those people who do it much better? And, if we have been paying from year to year large sums of money for research, is not it time for us to know what are the fruits of our labour? What has it produced?

We are always clamouring for more and more industries; people are not satisfied. Yet we are paying research workers fabulous sums of money every year. Cannot we do without that and get on all the same? I believe we can.

The best form of research, and one where I think the Minister can help most, is one his own Department has completely neglected. What is the best way? The desired result of research is to help to further the industry of this country and, to do that, we must let the world know what we have to offer. But you look at the Minister himself! He is the poorest advertisement for Nigeria. What does he wear? He does not put on anything we produce—it is foreign clothes he wears all the time. When he travels to the Gold Coast, the Gold Coast people are not in a position to

know the type of thing Nigeria produces by seeing his clothes. I would like to see something more indigenous on him: that is far better—even if he asked us to vote about £100 or £200 for him to buy his clothes, I would have preferred that to these research workers! After all, he can copy the noble example of the Minister of Transport; of the Minister of Land, Mines and Power and our glorious feathered Minister, Chief Okotie-Ebo—who is not here. Those are the advertisements for what we can produce here. He is not living up to the expectations of this House in connection with his own appearance. So let this money be converted to the money required by the Minister so that he might be a *Nigerian* Minister of Trade and Industry.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. R. A. Njoku):** Mr Chairman, I know the Leader of the Opposition has been itching for an opportunity to talk about my appearance; now he has had the opportunity, I hope he is satisfied.

Coming to the point at issue—the question of the Institute of Technical Research—I am surprised that anybody could stand on the Floor of this House and speak against this provision because it was applauded both as part of the Economic Programme and when it appeared in the Estimates last year.

Now, I will tell you a few things you ought to have known but which you have definitely shown you do not know. If you go to Oshodi you will be able to see what is being done in the Institute. First of all, I would like to say that a lot of research has been going on during the last four or five years: we had something going on at Aba, Ibadan and many more places. The Leader of the Opposition himself has committed a howler when he said that we should leave research to Unilever and concerns like that who manufacture products for sale in climates very different from local conditions here. Naturally, when you are doing research, you do it in the most favourable conditions and, if you are conducting research into the utility of our Nigerian materials, you must do it here in Nigeria; you cannot conduct that kind of research at the North Pole. It is very simple. Climatic conditions have got to be taken into consideration.

However, coming back to that: I am very pleased to hear that the Leader of the Opposition said that research is useful—he has admitted

that it is a useful thing but he wants to see the result. I would like to inform him that he can see all that is going on if he will take the trouble to call at the Department of Commerce and Industries, where he can see an array of local materials and, fibres of different types and he can also see the various things that are manufactured out of these local materials. There was an exhibition of these things last year but, of course, last year he was too busy looking for complaints here and there.

Turning to the question of what research we have been doing: I told the House last time we were here that we had been studying the preservation of palm wine. This is very important—what is the point in spending all your money drinking whisky and gin when you have palm wine which is just as good? You only want to find a way of preserving it. And I am glad to say that a certain amount of success has been achieved with this. Secondly, we have also been studying the mechanisation of gari production: we want to be able to produce suitable machines which can be handled by the people in the villages to produce gari, so as to feed our growing population (*Applause*). A lot of these things are going on and I am quite sure that if the Leader of the Opposition had scrutinised the Estimates, and compared them with last year's Estimates, he would have seen that a lot of these officers, who have all been lumped together, because we integrated the whole research programme, were members of the Department of Commerce and Industries before: we thought it was much better to organise the whole thing as an integrated unit.

Everybody realises the importance of industrialisation in this country, but no other Government has the facilities for conducting research into industry to facilitate industrialisation except this Government. The West is not conducting it, the East is not, the North is not. It may well be that some big experimenting concerns are doing so, but their schemes are restricted to certain commodities such as oil, for people who make soap—they specialise in that; the I.C.I. for dyes and so on. But we are not only concerned with those: we are concerned with the whole range of products we have in this country, and what we are doing is to prove them useful and suitable for certain industries before we can advise local entrepreneurs to use these to produce something.

There is no point in asking somebody or advising somebody to use hemp or some other type of raw material to produce material to make bags and sacks, when these are not suitable. We have to try them out, make sure that the men who find it difficult to produce, say, about £10,000 or even £5,000 will not waste all their capital and, blame us for ever after. So I think that now that I have explained what this institute does and what it is supposed to do, and what it has been doing in the past, and how it can help the production of locally manufactured goods, I am quite sure that Chief Duro Phillips will now be converted, and that he will behave as he ought to do. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Z. B. Olokesusi (Ekiti South):** Mr Chairman, I want to point the attention of the Minister to the Industry Department of his Ministry. I note with satisfaction the progress of Nigerians in the Commerce Department. I note that out of the eighteen commercial officers that we are estimating for here, very many of these posts have been occupied by Nigerians, but... (*Interruption*). I am not talking to this Amendment; I am talking on this particular Head.

**The Chairman:** If the hon. Member is not talking to this particular Amendment, I don't think we should waste any further time, but get rid of this particular Amendment.

**Mr Olokesusi:** I am opposing the Amendment. (*Hear, hear*). I have said, Mr Chairman, that I note with satisfaction the progress Nigerianisation is making in the Department of Commerce under this Ministry, but I say that in opposing this Amendment I would draw the attention of the Minister to the Industry Department of the Commerce and Industry.

There are eight appointments of industrial officers to be appointed in this place, and I have noted that out of these eight posts, none has been filled by a Nigerian. I know that there is some kind of technical knowledge to be acquired by the prospective candidates for these positions, but I am asking the Minister what he is doing about the departmental training for members of the Department to be able to receive promotion to this post. I think in his own time he will be able to inform the House whether he has a scheme for sending overseas some of the very pushful members of the department to acquire the skill and

knowledge necessary in order that they may be promoted to the post of industrial officers.

I do not see the reason why anybody should move an amendment to reduce the Head. I hope the Minister will be able in his answer to inform the House of what he is doing in that Department.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Question, That sub-head 28 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

**Mr L. L. Lakunle** (Oyo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the amendment standing in my name, to reduce the Head by £10. Many people have spoken on different aspects of our trade in this country, and the need to protect the African's interests. The hon. Fani-Kayode has even gone to the extent of telling this hon. House of how licences are being issued in the name of Africans or Nigerians for Lebanese and Syrians to import from Japan.

But it appears that people have lost sight of another aspect, a very important aspect, of our trade in this country, and that is transport business. Everybody will agree with me that in Nigeria to-day we have many transporters and it appears that people find transport business much easier than investing their money in limited liability companies, in import and export and so on, and so it will be necessary for the Minister and the Department concerned to see to it that these transporters, Nigerian transporters, are protected from foreigners.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we quite appreciate what these foreigners have done, or what they did in the days when our people perhaps owing to lack of funds could not take active part in the transport business, but to-day we would note that we have as far as this transport business is concerned enough and even to spare. And if you go out into the country you will see in every nook and corner lorries and commercial vehicles owned by Nigerians and Africans. But even then, there are foreigners who still take active part in this transport business.

They are competing very seriously with Nigerians, and you can well imagine where a foreigner, say a Syrian or a Lebanese, competes with a Nigerian, he will easily overshadow him, and so he needs some

protection from the Government. Well, I do not want to mention names, but I know of some Syrians and some Lebanese who go to the extent of buying ordinary taxis, competing with taxi owners in Ibadan, buying small buses competing for passengers right here at Iddo and Ibadan. You see, they are the biggest shop-owners, they are the biggest importers, and they are the biggest exporters: they are the biggest shopkeepers.

Now, I feel that if these people order goods from overseas, as soon as these things arrive in the country, they should allow Nigerians to take the opportunity of helping them to transport these goods to different parts of the country. But they do not do that. They do the importing, do the selling, do the transport and everything, and I want the Government to do something about it, and to prevent these people from competing with our people.

It would be remembered that some time last week a Motion to this effect was brought up in the Northern House of Assembly by a Government supporter, and I am quite sure that the Government would give its blessing to this Motion. The Motion sought to ban foreigners from taking active part in the transport business. I would therefore appeal to this House, to the Minister in charge and the Department, to see to it that these Nigerian transporters are protected against their foreign competitors. Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Well, I find myself a partner, a strange bedfellow, with a Member on my right. Maybe, by geographical proximity he is thinking the same way that I do. Unfortunately, we have got a government which can see farther back than it can see forward. Happily I think since even Government supporters are now seeing the wisdom of the point we raised before, it may make things easy for the Government to turn right about.

Now, on the question of protecting the commercial interests of the indigenous people, we have raised this point time without number, and I must say that the support for this point has come always from all sides of the House but, unfortunately, when it came to the point of registering that unanimity in an effective manner many of the Government supporters always developed cold feet.

What is happening now? The Syrians and Lebanese are given preferential treatment by our Government and I would say by our Government because the Government appears to be either neutral in the whole picture, or to be partial, or to be absolutely indifferent. Now, what is happening? A Syrian may come to this country without a single penny, without any capital whatsoever. But immediately he comes he has tremendous goodwill. The banks here will accommodate him, and right from the word go he is at an advantage over the African members of the community. Then a year or two he becomes a master. I am not suggesting that he should be driven from the country. But if he is going to enter into competition with us, that competition ought to be fair. At the moment the competition is absolutely unfair. It is often said that they come to the country not to enter into the retail trade. What are they doing? If you are careful enough and you are sufficiently observant you will see them at Jankara selling pepper, hawking groundnuts, selling onions and garri. Where are we heading for?

It was just only a few days ago that a Motion was passed in the Northern House of Assembly on this particular subject matter. The transport business in the North is completely dominated by the Syrians and the Lebanese. Now, where are we going? And the Syrians and Lebanese in this country are not the guests of the Government of the Northern Region. They are not the guests of the Government of the Eastern Region. They are not the guests of the Government of the Western Region. They are the guests of the Federal Government and their father-in-law is the Minister of Trade and Industry. What is he going to do about them? Is he going to keep pampering them at our expense? When we come to the appropriate Head I will be able to tell the House more.

Do you know that of all the African contractors in this country—there are more than 500 of them—the whole African contractors here got contracts last year worth not more than £200,000, whereas one single foreign firm of contractors here got contracts of more than £2 million—not a British firm because strictly speaking we cannot regard the British as foreign now. I am not talking of the British, but I am referring to the Italian, the Syrian, the Lebanese, the Greek—one single firm had a contract of more than £2 million from our glorified Government here. Something ought

to be done about the encroachment of the Syrians and the Lebanese.

Now it is easier (I put this to the Minister and I will not lay it at the Minister's door: he is too high up; it may be that his subordinates are responsible) it is easier for the most junior Syrian in this country to obtain concession from the Department of Commerce and Industries than it is even for hon. Ojukwu. Why that is so I do not know. That ought to be looked into. They are too much favoured, too much pampered, and I will appeal to the Minister not to treat this as what he used to say in the past. After we had our say, the whole thing will be pulled away and the Syrians will be treated the same old way that they used to be treated.

I would say that a definite policy should be laid down. If they are going to enter into wholesale trade, confine them to wholesale trade and nothing more, and once you confine them to that, you must get an army of detectives to ensure that they keep within the law. The Syrians and the Lebanese know how to circumvent the law. If you go through the whole of West Africa (and I say this with all sense of responsibility) if you look at the most heinous crimes either in the minesfield or in the smuggling of minerals, of diamonds, of gold, at the bottom of it you find no other people but the Syrians and the Lebanese. They are the guests of our Federal Minister. What are we going to do about that? It is time our Minister should give us a definite word about that, that this thing has come now to stay.

About two years ago, a Motion was brought to the Floor of this House that an inquiry should be set up to look into the activities of these Syrians and the Lebanese. We all argued in favour of the Motion but we lacked the courage to arrive at the right conclusion. Now the Government has limited its activity to their interest in land. The Government will now inquire to find ways and means of restraining the influence of Syrians and Lebanese in acquisition of land in Lagos. But Lagos is not Nigeria. The evil that these people are doing cannot be confined to Lagos. They do it in the North; they do it in every part of the country. What are we doing about the other parts of the country? Is the Federal Government going to leave them alone? If the Northern Government passes a Motion about the Syrians, the Motion cannot be effective without the active co-operation of

the Federal Government, because that would be a matter affecting the aliens and the right of aliens in this country is a Federal Government matter.

What is the Federal Government going to do about it? Are we going to restrain them? That is the question I would like the Minister in particular to answer. When you go to the Department and hear allegations of sales of import licences you find a majority of the offenders would be Syrians and Lebanese. They are the people who know the backdoor. They are the people who know how to do it. For heaven's sake, is it not time to tell these people to stop? If the time has come, what is the Minister going to do about it? I do not want the Minister to be diplomatic in giving us an evasive answer. Is it not time to stop his guests from depriving even his own brothers of their means of livelihood?

Women can no longer sell in our markets. The women who hawk cloth about have been completely kicked out by the Syrians, the Lebanese. In the interest of his own wife—I advisedly used the word in the singular—in the interest of his own wife and his wife's friend and the womanhood of Nigeria, is it not time for the Minister to do something about this matter? It is time and I hope the House will hold him to a point about these Syrians and Lebanese. It is time we stopped talking. We want action, and a quick action so that these people may know that we are hospitable but our hospitality will not take us to the brink of suicide.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City):** Mr Chairman, Sir, when in my last contribution on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill I made reference to the much revenue of this country being drained by goods being smuggled and other things being smuggled, I had in mind the current rumours that have been going about in this country which have not yet been proved wrong, that this sort of thing has always been carried out by people no less than these Syrians and Lebanese. It is a very serious allegation, Sir, and apart from that, a lot of other things have been carried out by these same people too.

We know of so many instances in which the Syrians and the Lebanese will step into the trade of this country only to under-sell our own people. Much as we are grateful for whatever foreign capital may pour into this

country we do not, and I repeat we do not want any foreign company that will be detrimental to the progress of commerce and trade by the indigenes of this country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, let us look at this question of transport. Our people agree, having got sufficient money, to buy all the lorries. What happens is this, that some of these aliens will collect money and they will buy all the lorries from a firm (sometimes they do not pay all the money) and then they collaborate with the firm—I say collaborate because I know what has been going on—because the firm will give them all the goods to carry in that country. If they are given the contract to take all the goods throughout the whole country, what goods will our people have to carry? They will have nothing at all. Besides that, these people have got a very clever way of doing it. When they buy these lorries they do not pay for them. Our people pay for these lorries out of their own pockets and yet they do not get the goods to carry with their own lorries. But these Syrians always have the goods.

I know of a certain alien company to-day that monopolises the transport of goods in Kano. In Jos it is the same thing. Do our own local traders, Mr Chairman, buy these lorries in order to park them in their own houses? They do not buy them for that. They want to get money. But, Sir, if the Government is not going to check these people from interfering with our God-given transport from which we should take a preponderant share, I do not know what we are going to do about it. *(Applause)*.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we welcome the Syrians and the Lebanese, but we do not welcome anybody, be he a Syrian, a Greek or anybody for that matter, come he from the North Pole, the South Pole or even from underneath the ground, who is going to deprive us of our own wealth in this country. We have said enough about these people. We know what has been going on in this country, but what action is Government going to take in order to remedy the situation? It is very important, Sir. We are not accusing the Minister; we are not accusing anybody. We know very well, Sir, that the Minister may not be in the know. We, as the watch-dogs of the people of this country, the teaming millions of the people of Nigeria, are right here to come to the Floor of this House to tell the Minister

what he does not know. It is our duty to tell him and it is his duty on the other hand to act on the advice that we give him in this hon. House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we ask therefore that the Minister should try and do something to stop these people from monopolising the transport business of this country. If the Regional Government in the Northern Provinces can do it, there is no reason why the Federal Government being—what did you call it, Mr Chief. *(Laughter)*. . . . the Federal Government being in a position to deal with these people, there is no reason why they should not be bold. We want something bold to be done and that immediately. We do not want to come back next year and hear that still these people are taking the preponderant share in the trade and transport of this country.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. R. A. Njoku):** Mr Chairman, I have to answer these two points on Syrians and other expatriates taking part in the general transport business and the retail trade, because my hon. Colleague, the Chief Secretary, is not here. These points are really not my responsibility. When a person enters this country, he gets an immigration permit, if he is an alien person, and on that permit is indicated what sort of occupation he can engage in. If it happens that he comes to engage in trade and industry, well that of course is where my Ministry and Department come in.

It was last year, or two years ago that the Chief Secretary was at pains to explain to this House at the instance of the Leader of the Opposition, what the Government policy was on this matter. The Leader of the Opposition has forgotten, or he is just hiding it under his sleeve. As regards the general transport business, that is plying for hire either for the carriage of goods or passengers, normally no expatriates are allowed to engage in this sort of business. *(Interruption)* Listen! There must be no doubt about this: Government has got to protect everybody and not just one single class of society.

Take the Southern Cameroons for example, where there are no indigenous people with transport and it is a question of carrying bananas from the farms, and the plantations, to the port. Well, what happens? Will you say that because no Cameroonians have got transport their produce should rot? No. That is why

the Government says that these people should not engage in this type of occupation except under exceptional circumstances, and in the case of the North, the East, or the West the Government of the Region is always consulted. When an application comes in, Government decides whether the activities of the particular person involved are going to benefit the people of the whole country. Take it from me that it is the policy of this Government that expatriates are now precluded from taking part in the general transport business. That is one thing.

Now, as regards the retail traders, it is exactly the same thing, and the hon. Chief Secretary has told you also that no more expatriates are being allowed to take part in the retail trade.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about contractors. I do not know why the Ministry of Trade and Industry has become a target which has got to answer for everything. Surely the Leader of the Opposition ought to know that the question of contracts has nothing to do with my Ministry. I must say we are very strict about the sale of licences and whenever reports have come in and have been substantiated, people have been penalised and very often the offenders are from both sides, Nigerians and Syrians alike, as one hon. Member has already said.

Finally, Sir, I have to say that the House should not go away with the idea that Government is very soft in its dealings with the Syrians. I am sure, Sir, that the Leader of the Opposition, Chief Akintola, knows more Syrians and has more Syrian friends than the Minister of Trade and Industry. *(Applause)*

**Mr L. P. Ojukwu (Onitsha):** Mr Chairman, I don't want to say too much on this subject, but I feel that I should stand up and point out to the hon. Minister that he has made some mistakes. He has just made a statement to the effect that Government does not allow expatriate firms to participate in the transport business of this country.

I didn't want to contribute to this Debate because if I do people will misinterpret what I say, but I would like to cite one instance which happened two or three weeks ago. It is about a commercial firm who received a licence to import cars into Nigeria to sell them to poor Africans who run them as taxis. For instance, you go to Tinubu Square and see a lot of these Africans with one or two taxis

looking for passengers. This firm imports anything up to 500 cars a year, sells them to the poor Africans who go about collecting six-pences, shillings or two shillings as the case may be. But these firms are not satisfied with the huge profits they have been making and so they decided in the last few weeks to offer a trade challenge to these poor Africans by linking their transport business with B.O.A.C., and they advertise in local newspapers that none of these travellers from the United Kingdom, Accra, or anywhere, who travel by a taxi, should use them, but should go in their own transport. After selling these cars to the poor Africans they have rushed the other way to stop them from earning anything with the result that most of these poor Africans have to sell their houses, their cars, to meet their expenses.

I would like to point out to the Minister that if it has been the policy of the Government to stop expatriates from participating in competition with Nigerians, they should take a drastic step to stop these firms from importing vehicles to sell to the poor Africans, and then going behind to compete with them.

Sir, I would like to pass on to another point. I have already said that I didn't want to go far on this matter because I have an interest in it, but I would like to point out that we have poor transport owners in this country. We give big contracts out, for a fly-over bridge, Iddo Bridge, the Apapa Wharf extension, to the Electricity Corporation and for power-house construction. We also have to bring stones down from the Abeokuta Quarry. We give out contracts for £3½ million to £4½ million. The poor Africans buy small lorries to the tune of about £2,000 or £3,000 to bring the stones from Abeokuta and drive the Africans away. What I feel, Sir, is that once our people have got the capital they will be able to compete but I would like to warn the Government that unless a drastic step is taken we are going to have trouble when we get our self-government, as a result of this Syrian menace.

I know. I have travelled in this country, and in the villages, the men, women and children are growing bitter. Therefore if you are thinking in terms of self-government, think also in terms of recruiting a lot of

soldiers and policemen otherwise I can assure you that as soon as self-government is declared the people will attack all these Syrians.

(Applause.)

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**Mr L. P. Ojukwu (Onitsha):** Mr Chairman, in continuation of my speech this morning, I have some pamphlets here which I have prepared to pass to the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry, in case he is in doubt of the statement I made this morning. I will go further to inform the hon. House, and I hope the hon. Members will agree with me, that while addressing them I take it that they are all responsible citizens and my address to them will not incite them or make them to commit any act of vulgarity (*Laughter*). I am giving them the experiences which I have gained in the other work and it is for them to listen to me and take note of what I have to say.

I come again to the question of the men we experience, we generally call them "I go pay" people. Why we call them that name is that you may have the efficiency, you may have the intelligence, you may have the honours degree, but when it comes to the question of contract, you put in your tender, as all Syrians would, then the next month you are voted out. Then you come round and you find that a car has been purchased for a wife or a rich girl's wrist watch has been purchased.

I will go further to tell you I am a Director of many companies where I have invested money, thousands of pounds, if I tender for a contract, I will be voted out. I have to go back and take my sub-contract from the Syrians. Well in my own case I have the efficiency, I have the organisation and I can go and find more efficiency than any of those people. Why? I beg you to think this over.

I want to bring it home to the Members of the Council of Ministers, since 10 or 20 years ago, whenever Government Officials were to be given advances to purchase their cars, they have been compelled to buy British made cars to protect their own industries. In our own, in what way are we protected? The contracts are issued out and the people are allowed to buy their own transport to compete with the poor Africans and I have told you a case where one firm imported 600 cars, sold 100 to Africans and marshalled 300 round to compete with the

Africans. What has Government done to protect the interest of these people?

I know people like Rockefeller.—They are all millionaires, they have money, they benefit their own country. The Government of the United States did all they can to encourage them. But in our own, we are not encouraged. Africans are labelled as lazy people, as people who are inefficient, as people who cannot calculate and as people who cannot run business. Gentlemen, we run our business. We work very hard, and you will be surprised if you leave this hon. House and come round at Yaba by 9 o'clock or 11 o'clock in the night and you will see your humble servant with a knicker, working like a labourer to see that all the organisation is efficient. I have done all that to prove that Africans given equal chance as other people, will do anything, we will do exactly what others have done. (*Cheers*).

And we have these "I go pay" people! Now take for instance the country here, it consumes thousands and millions of gallons of petrol. What happens is that the Government allows all these firms importing petrol and making all the profit there to buy their own vehicles and operate and run. Instead of paying Africans one penny or half a penny, they do the running themselves. How do they expect these Africans to live? How do they expect them to maintain their wives? How do they expect them even to pay their tax? And I challenge the Government to find out how much the Syrians are paying in form of taxation. They don't pay anything. And then, how much are the Africans paying? Those that have the facilities do pay and I can cite my own case. For 1955-56, I paid £13,000 in tax.

**Some hon. Members:** Wonderful!

**Mr L. P. Ojukwu:** If you put all the Syrians together, they do not pay that. What encouragement do they give me?

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** And they got all the jobs?

**Mr L. P. Ojukwu:** They got all the jobs and when it comes to contracts, I get the job from them, I do not get them direct. I have facts and figures to prove that.

**Chief Akintola:** Tell them—tell this Government their iniquities!

**Mr Ojukwu:** Gentlemen, I am sorry that I have to take your time so much on this subject

but I feel the time has arisen when we should be on our feet and tell the Government what we think about these Syrians. As I have mentioned previously, there is only one thing that is holding us. As soon as this country sees the light, stand on her legs, I have no doubt that no amount of policemen, no amount of soldiers will prevent our boys and youths marching forward and telling these people that we welcome them if they do honest business, but if they come here to exploit the country and leave the country as barren as anything, we shall no more stomach that.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support. (*Prolonged Applause*).

**M. Baba Danbappa (North East Central Kano):** Mr Chairman, I will say a few words on this subject. It is quite disturbing for this country with the present national Government going on to leave the Syrians and Lebanese alone, and there has been much said in this respect. I think what the Government ought to do is to investigate and see where the trouble lies, either with the Police, the Immigration Officers, or the Department of Commerce and Industries. For a long time, the number of Syrians coming to this country is too much, especially our friends the Lebanese who come by all means to enter the country. Something is wrong there. A lot of them come under age when they are really grown up. Government must try to check these conditions: how these aliens come into this country and what is the profession they profess to do if they come in. It seems to be all a matter of pretence.

The Government, I believe, has a file for every alien that comes into the country. A lot of them that come are not welcome here because what they propose to do, we the Africans can do quite well and I think it is not right for our Government to allow these people to come to deprive Africans of their source of livelihood.

I am sorry that I have to touch the Police, although it is not the heading of the Police, but this House has not had the honour of debating the heading of Police.

**An hon. Member:** We certainly have.

**M. Baba Danbappa:** Well, I will just confine myself to the Department of Commerce and Industries. The people in Nigeria are conscious that the trade of this country is now being taken over by aliens. If you look into the petty trade—the retail trade, the transport

business—they have gone out of African hands and what we are saying is this. We ought as a nation to survive because without trade no nation can survive. What we are saying now is not our fault. The Government had allowed these people to come in and they came in, but there must be a difference between what they do and what the Africans do, for if this is not done, I think there will be trouble sometime later. We don't pray for trouble. Everybody knows that Nigeria is a very peaceful country and Nigerians are peaceful minded and there is no need for trouble.

So all what we advise the Government is to try and find out how these people come in and what they are doing. If it agrees with what they are allowed to come in for, well that is all right. But in our own view, we think they don't agree. What they tell the Government they will do is not what they are doing at present. So there must be something wrong somewhere else. I advise the Government, especially the Minister of Trade and Industry, to do what he thinks is right for the country.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support all the speakers that Japanese licences should be given to Nigerian traders and at the same time, Sir, that the transport business should be secured to Nigerians. At the same time, Mr Chairman, I think it is our own duty to examine ourselves and make sure that our Nigerian traders at the same time do not do illicit business with either Syrians, Lebanese or any other alien trader in this country. We may do this by making it illegal for anybody to whom a licence has been issued to transfer it or, through one way or the other, to import through other traders.

I say, that, Sir, because we come to this House and we complain and agitate that the Minister should give licences to Nigerians. The Minister in compliance with what we are saying in this House, gives Japanese licences to our Nigerian traders. Now, they go through the back door and get the Lebanese and Syrians to order these goods out for them. I think the Minister should evolve another procedure by which it is made impossible to transfer licences. I think also it should be the duty of the Ministry to make sure that these people to whom licences are given should have their books examined and make sure

that they are suitable people to trade and import goods. (Hear, hear)

Secondly, Sir, on transport. We have some unscrupulous businessmen—although we are agitating in this House that the transport business should be carried on by Africans—who will open a business “in name only”. I mean that a person who has not enough money to open a business, will go behind the law, and start a business with the help of money from Syrians or Lebanese. Business transactions are carried on under a Nigerian name, but in actual fact it is alien money that is being used in the business itself. I think, therefore, that the Ministry should also look into this point, otherwise we shall only be doing “Afamaco” work in this House, if we come here and agitate for the good of our people, and then allow them to get round the law.

Now, while talking about this matter, Sir, I think we must also talk about our friends, the U.A.C., because they also sell gari, palm oil, ororo (ground-nut oil) and many other things, it may be that the Syrians and Lebanese are copying them. For instance, Mr Chairman, I will give you a specific example. At King George Avenue, Yaba we have a U.A.C. shop dealing in retail trade, there are also Africans—for that matter my wife also has a retail shop opposite,—but because of the new U.A.C. retail shop, the Nigerians are closing down their shops. So that is why, Mr Chairman, when we are talking about our friends, the Syrians and Lebanese, we must also talk about the U.A.C.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to say that it is not the fault of the Ministry, and it is our duty to do everything possible to help the Ministry to carry out the policy laid down.

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

**The Minister of Trade and Industry** (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, I have answered most of the points, but Mr Ojukwu made some serious allegations. Mr Ojukwu was talking about contracts and since he is a transport owner, I suppose he means transport contracts. Contracts generally may be private, that is to say, they may be contracts that are given out by private enterprise and I don't think any Member of this House expects that the Minister of Trade and Industry, or any other Minister, is going to interfere with how private businesses award their contracts. If

the hon. Member is referring to Government contracts given out by Government Departments, that is not my responsibility either, another Member of the Council of Ministers is responsible for that.

We are discussing Head 61—Commerce and Industries and I notice that some Members are trying to convert the Ministry into an omnibus Ministry. Everybody who has been itching to say something and never had an opportunity is trying to fit it in, even the Police have been mentioned. If the hon. Gentleman was referring to contracts given out by Statutory Corporations whether it is the E.C.N., the Ports Authority, the Nigerian Railway, they should be raised under the appropriate Head.

Then, coming to another question, which has been raised again, about licences, everything is done to discourage traffic in licences. As a matter of fact towards the end of last year the Department stopped endorsing licences. No licences are now endorsed for anybody, and anybody who applies for a licence must use it himself. We have gone a step further than that. The Department now calls for a statute report; that means we try to find out how much money an applicant has, and try to decide whether he will be a genuine importer or not. We also try to obtain information as to his financial standing: that is, how much he imported last year, the year before and the year before that. All this is considered nowadays before applicants are granted licences.

I am very grateful to the hon. T. O. S. Benson for realising that the fault does not lie only with the Department; it is also up to the Nigerian trader to make himself worthy of the licence he is trying to get. We are doing our best. We give them something with one hand, but they give it to others with the other. In cases like this, I think, the opinion and the influence of the Members of this House would help.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I don't think there is any need for me to say more. I have said enough about Government policy, that is in regard to general transport business and the retail trade. In fact, this will be about three or four times that this has been said. My hon. Colleague, the Chief Secretary, is here now but I think I have explained the point well enough.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) 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 Head 61 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.

Original Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 62—MARKETING AND EXPORTS

Question proposed, That £424,580 for Head 62—Marketing and Exports—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall be brief, but to the point. Under every Head during this Session on the Appropriation Bill, we have always emphasised the fact that not enough of our men when they are due for promotion, or whenever vacancies occur, that not enough of our men are considered. I know that some people will sigh ‘Oh, that again’, but we shall always go on dinning it into your ears. If you look under this Head you will find a number of new posts which are proposed. The point is that some of these new posts when they are being filled should be filled by our men, and we would like to know if it is the intention that this will be done.

The only Nigerian that we know of who is holding super-scale post in this Department in recent promotions was Mr N. A. Martins and it was published with great fanfare how Nigerianisation was going forward with great strides in this Department. Even in the British Broadcasting Corporation—one single person, they are making a lot out of that. What is happening about the others? Just because they have put one man in the shop window what is happening behind the shop window? We would like a few more of our men coming forward to fill these posts.

You find in every section, there is going to be a Deputy Director, another Assistant—none of these are Africans. In the Department of Marketing and Exports you find three of them—Principal Marketing Officer, then you go on to the Shipping, and so on, and next to the Accounts. We want to know what is happening, what is there that is very special in the Department of Marketing and Exports that warrants the promotion of only one African and the others have to vegetate? If you look at the Staff List you will find that some of the people who were brought here on contract are now in the regular stream. You see some of them gravitating—they gravitate from contract for a few years and they enter the regular



stream and you find that when there is a promotion up they go.

If you want me, Sir, to be specific, I certainly will. You find some of them marked here under Deputy Director (Operation). You will find that there was someone who came on contract, at one time he was listed as an Assistant Director, now he has gone up to be Deputy Director. I do not understand that the people who come on contract also swim in the stream of promotions. He is not the only one, Sir. There are others who came on contract and then gradually they usurped the promotion posts. There was the Principal Accountant here who is now Assistant Director (Accounts). Well, he came on contract and now he has gone up to be Assistant Director. It is in this way that our people are robbed of their chances because when there is no vacancy how can those boys be promoted?

If this is the kind of self-government that we are going to have when none of our men will be considered fit enough, but somehow through the backdoor people will be put in to fill the vacancies, it seems to me that we ought to re-examine ourselves again. If our own men are not going to do the job and we rely on other people to do the job for us, then there is a state of frustration in the country. I would like an answer on this point: why are the people who are coming on contract getting into the stream of promotions? Why are our boys still there vegetating?—or do they want to tell me that in the Department of Marketing and Exports we have not got capable men and have got to go to the ends of the earth?

It is for this reason, Sir, that I am moving that we reduce this Head by £10, and I hope the House will support me in this unless we get a satisfactory answer from the Minister.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** (South Ilorin): Mr Chairman, Sir, the only thing behind my supporting this Motion to reduce this Head by £10 is to voice my protest to the Minister of Trade and Industry that there is nothing done yet to keep world market for shea-butter and shea-nut which are available in large quantities in the North.

Also the Minister should see that there is a limit to the exportation of Nigeria's timber as from now. The Minister is advised to verify this fact by finding out the difference

in prices between now and ten years ago. He will see that the plank sold for 2s-6d ten years ago is about 10s to-day.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr S. J. Mariere** (Urhobo East): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Head I have some observations to make in connection with the export products of this country.

Sir, my first observation is on cocoa. Cocoa enjoys the unique credit of being Nigeria's dollar earner but it is now generally known that the quantity of cocoa exported has decreased progressively since 1951. It is reported, Sir, that in 1955, 88,413 tons of cocoa were exported as against 131,478 tons in 1951. The Minister of Trade and Industry, however, struck a happy note in the course of his speech in this House when he said that the quantity has risen to 114,239 tons in 1956 with the fall in the export value due to fall of prices.

Now, Sir, the "Daily Times" issue of 25th January, 1957, carries a fresh report that caused a great alarm to cocoa producers. There it was stated that a substitute for cocoa has been found which could be cheaper to use than cocoa butter and just as satisfactory in chocolate manufacture. Although the West Regional Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources came out with a press release that the newly discovered substitute for cocoa butter would constitute no threat to the increasing popularity of cocoa in world markets, yet it is my view that if the price of the substitute is far lower than that of cocoa it will endanger the cocoa trade because there will be the tendency to buy a cheaper substitute purely for economic reasons, the popularity of cocoa notwithstanding, and eventually the price of cocoa, which is already on the downward trend, will be seriously affected.

If anyone buying an article, Mr Chairman, because of its popularity later on finds that he can get a substitute for 6d per pound, he will certainly prefer buying the substitute for economic reasons to paying 2s for the other article because of its popularity. This is just a question of getting himself used to the cheap substitute. The only claim made out for cocoa is based on popularity. Circumstances, Mr Chairman, often alter cases and so anything may be popular at one time and may be unpopular at another time. Cocoa yields a heavy revenue to this country and anything

endangering its future will be viewed with the greatest concern.

It is well-known that when the price of a product gets closer to production cost, stimulation to production would stifle. Perhaps the Minister of Trade and Industry will throw some light on this grave issue.

Sir, my second observation is on palm kernel prices. The Minister informed this House that the price of palm kernel rose by £2 to £3. This should be a happy news to the producer, but I wonder where this increase is operating. The increase does not appear to go to the producer, at least to those in the Delta Province from where I come. In fairness to the producers, I should like the Minister to look into this matter. His speech appears to give an element of doubt as to the exact amount of the increase.

With your permission, Sir, I will quote from the speech of the Minister: "Last year's crop of palm kernels was only 1,790 tons less than the record crop of 1954. The output of palm oil fell slightly but the quality improved and so did the price. The price of kernels also rose by £2 or £3." I wonder why he too has some doubt without giving the exact increase. I would also like an explanation on that point.

Sir, my third observation is on rubber. The Minister of Trade and Industry told this hon. House that during the first nine months of 1956 the yield of export duty on rubber alone was £806,000. It is amazing that natural rubber which yielded to this country an export duty of £806,000 in 1956 is still not considered one of the most important Nigerian exports reserved to the Central Marketing Board. Government does not appear to do anything to encourage those who are engaged in the rubber industry in the Mid-West. The interest of people whose hard work yielded £806,000 to the country deserves some protection. Natural rubber is now almost the main industry of the Mid-Westerners and Government should consider the demand of the people that rubber be included in the list of subjects for the Central Marketing Board.

Mr Chairman, I support the Head.

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose this Head. It has been said by the hon. Solaru that this Department is not Nigerianised. I do not know if the Minister will be able to explain this to this hon.

House: I would like to hear a statement from the Minister of how many Nigerians are in the senior service in this Department and in the upper segment. If you examine the Estimates you will see that there is a total increase in inducement addition this year of £1,500. That means that most of the people in this department are expatriates.

Again, further down you will see that there is an increase in the inducement addition of £600. That shows that the officers in this Department are all expatriates. I would like to hear a statement from the Minister of Trade and Industry about the Nigerianisation of this Department.

About these advisers; I do not know how many Nigerians are scientists and how many of them have been sent abroad to learn science. Why should these expenses be made on scientific advisers? How many Nigerians are advisers or how many of them have been sent abroad? The Minister of Trade and Industry should make a statement on this.

**Mallam Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina** (East Katsina): Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment and to support the expenditure under this Head. The price of groundnuts at the last season was not favourable to the poor farmers because they were advised to buy decorticating machines to decorticate their groundnuts in order to get higher price than the one threshed by native method. The poor farmers did buy the machines and use them and got special grade that they took to the groundnut market; and to their surprise they found that the difference in price did not justify their buying of the machines.

The Marketing Board should make a better arrangement next season to send produce inspectors to the groundnut markets to help in buying a special grade at good price. The buyers complained that they were afraid of buying a special grade because the produce inspectors did not come to their buying stations. The Marketing Board should increase the number of their produce inspectors in order to cope with the work of inspection so that the quality of groundnuts should increase for better price in the world market. This year, Sir, the crops did not do well because of the late rains and the tonnage of groundnuts had fallen. So, Sir, it will be better to increase the price of groundnuts next season in order to encourage the farmers to grow more.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I have just one short comment to make on this particular Head. I refer to the Staff List. The Staff List in my own understanding is always arranged in order of seniority. I notice that the very first person to appear there, and rightly so, is the Director. Below him is the Deputy Director and then next is the second Deputy Director. Then you have in ascending order of magnitude Assistant Director. Not until you get to the panel of Assistant Directors that you come across the name of an African.

Incidentally the African on the list of Assistant Director has been promoted to become a Deputy Director. But I have some suspicion. By the time that this African was promoted according to this Staff List, the Deputy Director who was there previously on contract had been transferred to the permanent list. In other words, if this man, the Deputy Director on contract had remained on contract, what we would have had now is the Director as No. 1, and No. 2 to him would have been an African. But as a result of this clever manipulation the African now is in about fourth or fifth category. I do not quarrel with that. I have a feeling that I am reflecting the opinion of all sides of the House that by whatever manipulation, by whatever arrangement, by whatever device, if the present Director goes away we will not be satisfied with anybody there but an African (*Applause*).

**Mr H. O. Chuku** (Bende): Mr Chairman, I want to make a very short explanation in connection with palm kernel. My hon. Friend has said that when the Minister of Commerce and Industries mentioned that there was an increase of price of kernel he does not know exactly how this increase operates. If we went back to tell our people that that really happened they will not believe that there was any increase at all. But I am not dealing with that. I want to ask the Minister if he is aware that the produce licensed buying agents are responsible for any increase of f.f.a. that is the official. . . .

**Mr L. P. Ojukwu** (Onitsha): Point of order. This matter refers entirely to Regional subject.

**The Chairman**: I do not know if this is a Regional matter but the hon. Member must confine himself to Federal matters.

**Mr Chuku**: It is also a question in the Western Region and also in the Federation—it is about Nigerian produce I am talking, Sir; I am referring to one section where I come from. The licensed buying agents have the misfortune to suffer when the produce percentage is increased by a certain percentage, and there was a time when they made a request that they should take the whole responsibility for looking after their f.f.a.; if there happened to be an increase they would be prepared to pay a penalty. But this was not granted, although there was a time when it was mooted that they were going to give them the concession of looking after their produce and also to pay the penalty, but the time came when it was shifted back to the Produce Inspection Department; so the people are really suffering a loss.

At the moment, if any oil is about 3.6 it is rejected by produce inspectors, whereas it is taken at b.o.p. But, if produce is about 4.5, it is acceptable; if it is not graded as such it then means that the money spent on buying this produce is held up, with the result that these traders cannot make use of their money, nor can the produce buying agents.

So I would like the Minister to bear in mind that the people, in the Eastern Region in particular, are suffering a great deal in this particular respect and, if he has it within his power to do anything about it, I think this is the time, particularly in this produce season, when he could give an undertaking on this.

It may be considered that that is a Regional matter but it affects every Region—(*An Hon. Member: Also the Federation*)—also the Federation.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry** (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Chairman, although I am not here to hold any brief for the Federal Public Service Commission, for which I am not responsible, the Public Service Commission is an extra-ministerial body which advises His Excellency the Governor-General on matters of appointment and promotion in the Civil Service. That is the first thing I want to say about it. But I am just as anxious as anybody else to see Nigerianisation in this Department. I think that, in fairness, Chief Solaru should have welcomed the good news of the promotion of this young Nigerian now; he should have, at least, said that something has been done. But, no! he wanted to water that down by

asking me to undertake what I have not got the power of doing.

As I said, the question of appointment and promotion is entirely a matter for His Excellency, acting on the advice of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Later on, as some Members have asked for figures of senior officers in this Department, I shall tell them. First of all, before I say that, I should remind the House that this Department is a comparatively young one, it started towards the end of the war. Therefore, it was necessary that a lot of the officers should be recruited on contract; as a matter of fact, some had to be seconded from other Government departments. Well, later on—I suppose the hon. Member is right in saying that some have converted. But that is a matter for which I am not responsible: I am not responsible for the conversion of any member of the Civil Service. I think this is important really and, here, the Leader of the Opposition, having been a Minister once, should be able to educate his colleagues on the Opposition bench.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I am protesting, Sir. I was not a Minister once: I was a Minister twice!

**The Minister of Trade and Industry**: That is all the more reason why he should be more competent to advise Chief Solaru on this matter! (*Laughter*).

In this Department, besides a Deputy Director who is a Nigerian—a young Nigerian at that—there are 52 expatriate officers in the senior grades and there are 28 Africans and, in order to accelerate Nigerianisation, there are 25 Africans now in training for the senior posts. (*Applause and cries of "Hear, hear"*.)

**Chief Akintola**: Who will be the next Director?

**The Minister of Trade and Industry**: My Friend, Mr Olarewaju, spoke about shea butter and shea nut: so far as I am aware, there is no difficulty in exporting these commodities. As a matter of fact, we have exported them to far-away Japan: that is one of the few commodities Japan has taken from this country. I can assure the hon. Member that there is no difficulty in exporting these commodities.

Mr Mariere mentioned cocoa substitute: we were all alarmed when the news was published but our fears were allayed later on when we

were told—even by the people who discovered it, in the Unilever Science Research Department—that there was no real danger; these people have said that the substitute will not endanger the future of cocoa production because it is not really a true substitute for cocoa, it does not give the proper flavour.

On the subject of palm kernels I said that the price rose from between £2 to £3. Naturally, this commodity is exported in consignments and the price fluctuates: it may be £2 on some consignments, £3 on others, and it was only reasonable that I should put the increase like that—from £2 to £3—because that was the range of increase during that period. As to whether this rise in price would be reflected in the price paid to the producer, I can only say that that is a matter entirely for the Regional Marketing Boards. We do not fix prices for them: they fix the prices themselves and I think they will look after that.

Mr Mariere also spoke about rubber. We are very happy about what has been happening about rubber. There were some fears on this score but our fears were not justified and production started to go up. It is up to the producers of rubber and, if this Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments concerned, is satisfied that it would be much better to make rubber a Marketing Board produce, I assure the hon. Member that the Government is going to take action accordingly.

The hon. Member for Bende Division, Mr Chuku, spoke about f.f.a. (free fatty acid) in palm oil and also the delays which are experienced by producers in getting their money. But I am very glad this is a purely Regional matter—entirely a matter for the Regional Marketing Boards. Luckily the Chairman of the Eastern Regional Marketing Board is sitting in this House and I am sure he has taken note of what Mr Chuku has said.

I think, Sir, that these are all the points; there is nothing more that I can add.

*The Minister of Works, Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada 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 Head be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

Question, That £424,580 for Head 62—Marketing and Exports—stand part of the Schedule, put accordingly and agreed to.

HEAD 63—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Question proposed, That £27,500 for Head 63—Ministry of Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, as a matter of fact I filed an Amendment in respect of this Head.

In discussing this Head I would like to repeat, Sir, our confidence in the ability of the Minister concerned. But having said that, Sir, I would like to call his attention to certain serious happenings in the Department. I am asking him to bring to bear his renowned ability on this matter.

A few months ago, Sir, it was given out that a young Corporation that is under him had suffered a loss which was near, or almost, a quarter of a million pounds. The young Corporation was the Nigerian Railway Corporation. It was given out in the newspapers. Our minds were disturbed. If a young Corporation, at this initial stage, should be incurring losses of this kind, the future would not seem very promising. The evils that plagued the Electricity Corporation had started again in the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Having read these things in the Press, there was no disclaimer whatsoever from the Minister, but following that, Sir, I think a special Board of Inquiry was instituted to look into allegations of the loss of railway sleepers to the tune of over £250,000. There was a unanimous report by the Inquiry. Findings were made, responsibility fixed, but in respect of the high placed officials who were involved in respect of these offences, a special Court was fixed, but the Africans were tried in an open Court. The one point I would like to bring out here is, what is the necessity of arranging special courts after the report of the Board of Inquiry?

If the Minister would like to explain to this House what steps he proposes to take to prevent a recurrence, it would help to allay our fears. We would also like him to assure us that we will be able to recover this money. I am not concerned as to whether those who perpetrated these offences were sent to prison or left to go scot free.

The Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt you, Mr Dosunmu, but after all the Railways are a Corporation. I doubt if it is in order to raise this question, as it concerns a Corporation, with the Minister of Transport as to whether he is responsible for answering these certain points on his own. I know in England he would not be.

The Minister of Transport: I am not responsible, Sir, but as a Member of the Government I can inform the House that when these offences happened the officers concerned were not actually members of the Railway Corporation but were seconded Civil Servants, and so I think the hon. Member is right.

The Chairman: I am very much obliged.

Mr Dosunmu: Well as I was saying, Sir, it is not so much my concern as to whether these people were convicted or even dismissed from the Service. My first concern is how the Minister is going to ensure that this loss is not permanent, and that we will get our money back. It is, after all, over a quarter of a million pounds. Things of this kind will disturb those foreign investors we are endeavouring to invite to Nigeria and if only for that reason alone, Sir, it is essential that something should be done.

We would like to have his assurance that he has done everything possible to prevent this loss or to prevent a recurrence of it and that everything possible will be done to see that this money is not lost for ever.

As I said, my speech on this Head is not in any way an attack on the Minister, but as the hon. Minister has already stated that he will accept responsibility for the departments under him, so I am asking him to take this opportunity at once to assure us, if it is true that this money is missing. If it is true that the offenders can be traced, and if in fact traced, the likelihood of this money being recovered.

That is all I intend to say, Mr Chairman.

M. Abdullahi Magajin Musawa (Katsina West Central): Mr Chairman, I beg to support Head 63, Sub-head 1, Item 1, but in supporting this Item of the Head, I would like to make these following observations.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Transport for his good activities in his Office. He has been so good as to grant me my last year's request. In that respect I

feel the hon. Members in this House will agree with me that he deserves my congratulations.

I also feel that he has acceded to the request made by Members on the duties allocated to his Ministry. He, as a Minister, to my observation, is a man of varied and unquestionable experience in the politics of this country, which, Mr Chairman, go as far back as the first stage of political awakening in this country through the Richard Constitution to the present-day Constitution.

Sir, we from the North have a great and implicit confidence in his leadership, integrity (Applause) and in his approach to the politics of this country. And I hope Mr Chairman, I am not asking too much if I express the demand for a public holiday throughout the Northern Region in remembrance of the hon. Leader of the N.P.C. in the Federal legislature and his great political sacrifices in bringing the North to its present political advancement which, Mr Chairman, I beg to say is not in any way behind those made by the other Regions. (Applause). Mr Chairman, I want to ask the Leader of the Opposition if he has any doubt on that. (Laughter).

Cheif S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): No doubt whatever!

M. Musawa: In concluding, Sir, I wish to remind the hon. the Minister of Transport of my previous plea about the people of Minna, in respect of the re-opening of the transportation of cattle from Minna to the Southern areas.

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

M. Abdu Sule (North West Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the expenditure on this Head I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport to the fact that very many Railway Stations in the North are neglected. Mr Chairman, since the Railway was opened in the North, which was about twenty years ago, many railway stations were built and since then there was no improvement of any kind.

Mr Chairman, Sir, last year when we came to this House I reminded the Minister of the fact that the Railway Station at Oturkpo in Idoma Division was not at all improved since it was built about twenty years ago. I could remember, Sir, during the Queen's Visit people from Kabba, from Dekina, Iddah and other

places in Kabba Province who were travelling to Kaduna through Oturkpo suffered a great deal because of lack of any waiting room at the station. I could remember, Sir, one of them, Mallam Sanni, had his loads destroyed, the box containing some valuable goods, they were all destroyed because of lack of any accommodation, he was staying outside and rain fell and destroyed all the things he had.

I think many Members from the East know very well that Oturkpo is between the North and the East, and will understand also that a great deal of people from the East, traders, bring many things from Port Harcourt, Aba and other places from the East. When the people come they always stay outside, Sir, they have not got any place to stay.

Mr P. M. Dokotri (Jos): On a point of explanation, Sir.

The Chairman: Order. Order. If the hon. Member who is speaking does not give way, Mr Dokotri is not entitled to interrupt.

M. Sule: I am not giving way.

As I was saying, Sir, I think time has come when the Government should do something to improve the station because it was built when people, traders, were not many and there were not very many travellers. But now, Sir, we have very many people going through the place all the time and I think the earlier this is done the better for us.

Secondly, Sir, when I was here last year I remember I spoke about one dangerous railway level crossing. This always causes a lot of accident. About three months ago a lorry belonging to a Member of this hon. House collided there, on that level crossing, and it was damaged beyond repair. I think if the Government wishes to put a stop to these accidents, which I am sure would happen again if no action is taken, the best thing is to take early action. Last year, Sir, I was told by the Minister that a committee was to enquire into the possibility of putting the level crossing in order, but since then nothing has been done I would like to see that something is done to stop further accidents.

Finally, Sir, a Member of this hon. House made mention of frequent changes of time tables without adequate warning to the travellers. This is very dangerous indeed. Travellers are always kept in a dilemma when they

come to the station and they are told "there is no train tonight, come back tomorrow." You see, they have not got any previous knowledge about these changes. I think they should be told any time the Corporation thinks that it is time to make changes on the time tables so that anybody will know when he is to travel and when he is to come to the station because if this is not done in many cases travellers suffer.

Sir, I beg to support this Head.

**Mr L. O. Tobun (Epe):** Mr Chairman, I rise to speak and support what the hon. L. J. Dosunmu has said about the loss of a huge sum of money, a quarter of a million pounds, in the Nigerian Railway. He told us that an enquiry was held and the responsibility fixed. As the result of that some African members of the Corporation are now facing criminal trials in an open court, and the European officials who are equally involved are still to face a special court. The question that I am going to put before this House, Mr Chairman, is: Why is it necessary to have two different courts, one an ordinary court, criminal court, the second a privileged court? In my opinion I think this is discriminatory and at the same time it is unnecessary. If an enquiry finds a certain class of people guilty of an offence, either be they white, or black, or yellow, they should be brought to face the same kind of court and to submit themselves to equal punishment. That is one.

But the important point to this thing is the amount involved. We have not been told—I personally I have not seen the report—we have not been told how we are going to have this sum of money back, perhaps this special court meets it may be decided that this privileged class should go scot free. If they go it will have certain reflections on how we are going to get this money back. If they are set free it means that the money just goes to the wind, like that. So I would personally like that the Minister who is responsible should make a statement in this House, particularly how he is going to recover this money. We care very little if a black man goes to jail or a white man goes to jail, what we want to know is are we going to recover this money?

**The Minister of Transport (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):** Mr Chairman, Sir, it is true that as the hon. Mr Dosunmu said, the Nigerian Railway Corporation lost about £¼ million. The responsibility for the loss, Sir, might be due

to negligence and other things done by some members of its staff. There seemed to be the impression made by the hon. Mr Tobun and the hon. Mr Dosunmu that there was some form of discrimination in the African members involved and the European members of the staff. I want to explain Sir that there was no discrimination whatsoever. The only difference is in the method of discipline among the different groups in the Government service, or in any other organisation of this kind. I want to tell the House that this matter is being thoroughly investigated. The investigation has not yet been completed; the matter is before the Court; many things are in the hands of the Police.

Generally, the question of discipline of Government staff is outside the responsibility of any Ministry and, therefore, outside my responsibility. But I will assure the House that there will be no discrimination in this matter whatsoever. I am very sorry also that when such things happen, particularly when it involves a loss of this kind, investigations have to be made before you can put any responsibility on any man. Of course, an inquiry was made but the inquiry was set up by the Corporation itself. The House will appreciate that most of the members of the Corporation staff, though they work for the Corporation, have not yet been offered employment by the Corporation and, until they are offered employment by the Corporation and convert to the Corporation, becoming Corporation employees, the Government still retains responsibility over them.

At this stage, Mr Chairman, I can tell the House only this: that I hope that, as the matter has now been put up at Court and investigations are going on, Members will agree to leave the matter as it is.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Is there any chance of getting the money back, that is the main thing?

**The Minister of Transport:** That is a question, Sir, which I cannot answer.

Sir, another hon. Member complained of the poor conditions of stations in the Northern Region especially. I do not know Sir, what particular stations the hon. Member has in mind, but I have been telling this House all the time that the Nigerian Railway Corporation is undertaking a big programme of Railway

Station re-modelling and I have no doubt that if a station building deserves to be re-modelled, the Nigerian Railway would not hesitate to do it. But, of course, this re-modelling is done with a purpose. But if you only have about 20 passengers travelling from a station, it is just a station for the convenience of the trains to stop, either to take water or something, else naturally you cannot expect to have a fine building like the one we have in the Lagos Terminus.

The same hon. Member, Sir, spoke of level crossings and referred to a particular one very close to his home. I said last year Sir, that I appointed a Committee which investigated what could be done to improve the accidents on the level crossings and I think the question is coming before the House, in which I am giving a reply showing what I have been able to do so far. Many of the hon. Members, of course, will have seen some of the work going on on the level crossings in various places. I have no doubt that if the comprehensive work of the Committee and also the detailed arrangement which have been with the Corporation and the Regional Public Works, there is no doubt that we shall be able to improve on these level crossings and stop the accidents on them.

As for my Friend the hon. M. Abdullahi Magajin Musawa, who is insisting on the railing of cattle from Minna, I think he should be satisfied with the reply which I gave to a question which he put to me. That is that this is not our side of country. We will be quite pleased to rail cattle from Minna, we will be quite pleased provided that the Department from the Northern Region is willing to provide the staff.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I think we should put an end to the appointment of Committees to look into certain things. I understand from the Minister of Transport that a Committee was appointed to look into these level crossings, but up till now the level crossings from my town to this place have not been done at all. I do not think this Committee has done anything at all, so that we should not be contented with the appointment of Committees. In the case of the Minister of Social Services, a Committee was appointed to do certain things, the

hospital is still there, the congestion is still there, so we are getting tired with the appointment of Committees which do not work.

The other point which I would like to raise is the question of Clerical Assistants. When we say that we are fighting for men on the upper segment, we should do something for these people who are just Clerical Assistants. They are not happy. It is to be regretted that the grading teams appointed by the Federal Government, has left the Clerical Assistants untouched, whereas the members of the technical side are now placed in a good position in the Government service.

Formerly there was a training school at Oshogbo where the Clerks from the Federation attended but, unfortunately, the school is now in the Western Region. What is the Federal Government doing for this set of workers?

**The Minister of Transport:** I want to ask what the hon. Member is after, Sir.

**The Chairman:** Would the hon. Member make his speech clearer please?

**Mr Akande:** Oh, yes. In this Head 63—Ministry of Transport—we have Clerical Assistants, I am telling the House about the plight of the Clerical Assistants under the Federal Government. Those who have been Clerks will realise that these people do the work of First Class Clerks. My humble request is that the Government should consider the points I have raised and take steps to establish a Federal Training School or conversion of the present Clerical Assistant to the standard grade or to introduce a specific examination for conversion to the standard grade. I am not unmindful of the Chief Secretary's remarks on this subject but if Oshogbo Training School is to transfer these people to the standard clerical grade, what is the Federal Government doing? This step in the Federal territory is a sure proof of the unwillingness of the Chief Secretary to recognise the ability of Africans to man the posts in the Civil Service.

My humble prayer is that the Government should now consider the Clerical Assistants in the Federal territory and then give them their due share. Mr Chairman, I support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

HEAD 64—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT  
(MARINE SERVICES)

*Question proposed, That the sum of £479,360 for Head 64—Ministry of Transport (Marine Services)—stand part of the Schedule.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Chairman:** I think we had better suspend the sitting for a short break. The sitting is now suspended.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

## HEAD 65—INLAND WATERWAYS DEPARTMENT

*Question proposed, That £331,730 for Head 65—Inland Waterways Department,—stand part of the Schedule.*

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Sir, I have an amendment to move on this Head. I hope that all the hon. Members have a copy of the amended Head in their hands. Sir, on the Order Paper there are a number of amendments in my name, and I hope that what I have to say now will cover all the other amendments concerning the sub-heads.

Now, the Committee is aware, Sir, that the Inland Waterways Department was established last year and the proposal was that we would build up this Department by stages. We are hoping at the beginning to establish a Navigational Branch and later to have other branches, possibly by 1958. I am glad to tell the House, Sir, that we are making very good progress in building up this Department, and that is why I have to seek the approval of the Committee earlier, to bring the other parts of the Department into being.

Sir, there are some other things about which I want to inform the House. If they look into the amendments they will see a provision for Hydraulic Engineers. These people, Sir, according to my experience are very difficult to obtain. I would very much welcome, Sir, the co-operation of the hon. Members if they can help me by trying to encourage young Nigerians, after taking their engineering degrees to go for further studies and qualify as Hydraulic Engineers.

I was discussing this matter, Sir, with Professor Jansen of NEDECO, and he told me that there is at Delft a provision for courses in English for Hydraulic Engineers. I hope, Sir, that young Nigerians will be going forward after completing their engineering courses and

after taking their degrees, to go for this specialist training.

We are in great need of Hydraulic Engineers because we hope, Sir, in 1958 when NEDECO hands over to us the Rivers Niger and Benue, we shall be able to take over from them and continue with the hydrological work.

Many hon. Members, Sir, have expressed the wish that the Federal Government should undertake hydrological surveys on our different waterways. I hope that the Inland Waterways Department will be able in the not-too-distant future to provide us with expert staff who can undertake such work.

Now, one important factor, Sir, about this amendment is that a large part of the expenditure on the Department is recoverable from the Regional Governments. Hon. Members are aware that before this Department was established the Ports Authority was operating crafts, launches and so on, on behalf of the different Governments and for which it received payment. Now the Regions have agreed that the new Department of Inland Waterways will operate their launches for them, and for which they will pay; so one can see that this Department, Sir, is a revenue yielding one, although the primary purpose of setting up this Department is not to bring in revenue.

I think, Sir, that the other amendments which I have are adequately covered, Sir, by the explanatory notes attached to the amendment where the details of the different sub-heads are broken up and I hope that the hon. Members will find them satisfactory.

I must say, Sir, that I have it in command from His Excellency, the Governor-General, to move the Amendment.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Question proposed, That sub-head 1 be increased by £16,940 as follows:—*

	£
1 Marine Officer, Scale A .. .. .	890
1 Marine Engineer, Scale A .. .. .	1,010
1 Temporary Marine Engineer, Scale A .. .. .	1,020
2 Hydrological Engineers, Scale A ..	2,030
1 Electrical Engineer, Scale A .. ..	1,020
1 Executive Officer (Accounts) Scale C (E) 2, 3, 4 .. .. .	500
2 Assistant Executive Officers (Accounts) Scale C (E) 1, 2 .. ..	780
1 Assistant Executive Officer, Scale C (E) 1, 2 .. .. .	470

	£
1 Principal Stores Officer, Group 9	1,500
1 Assistant Labour Relations Officer, Scale C(E) 1, 2 .. .. .	470
1 Assistant Chief Clerk, Scale D 4 ..	440
1 First-class Clerk, Scale D 3 .. ..	320
14 Second and Third-class Clerks, Scale D 1, 2 .. .. .	2,620
7 Clerical Assistants, Scale F 1, 2, 3	1,090
3 Storekeepers, Grades II and III, Scale D 1, 2 .. .. .	540
Inducement Addition .. .. .	1,740
Acting Allowance .. .. .	500

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, this Department is a very welcome addition to the activities of the Ministry of Transport. After all, we often forget that a large number of our inhabitants of Nigeria have no other means of transport. These waterways, Sir, if they are developed in the way we envisage, are not only going to bring added prosperity to these areas, but also the country's economic condition will reflect the prosperity that is coming to these areas.

But there is one thing, Sir; in the hon. Minister's speech he appealed to Members of the House to inform any young student of the country's need for Hydraulic Engineers. I would say, Sir, that that is very well taken care of by our scholarship scheme. If the scholarship people would offer scholarships in this subject, you would find young aspiring Nigerians would take up this course, for as in the past, the demands of Government or any other employing bodies have been an important factor in deciding what studies should be taken up by our young people. But until there is an opening, if a young man studies hydrology or any other form of engineering, and there is not a job for him, he becomes a liability, but if as it now seems there is a definite need for these people in a specialised field, I am sure that if the scholarship section of the Ministry of Social Services would advertise this fact, there would be no lack of response among our young people.

I would add further, Sir, that in developing these waterways, they are not being developed only for use by Dutch boats, or any other sea-faring nation one can think of, but for our own use. This development will go a long way to encourage our own people who are now canoe pullers, who ply these waterways to make more use of them. It is true that these are things which are developing slowly, and

you will find, Mr Minister, that all the help and encouragement that you want in this direction will be forthcoming, so long as we find that those who are employed in this project are not merely creating openings for themselves.

When the time comes for our back-room boys—that is our young people who are being trained to-day—to advance, if they are given that chance to advance, well no-one will grudge the money that is being spent on this Department.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to say that he has given his consent for me to move increases for the following sub-heads:

Sub-head 2 to be increased by	£2,000
Sub-head 7 to be increased by	£10,000
Sub-head 8 to be increased by	£1,700
Sub-head 10 to be increased by	£3,200

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Transport:** Sir, I have it in command from the Governor-General to move to increase sub-head 12 by £5,000.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu West): It is a matter of explanation, Sir. Would the Minister explain to us a little the duty of the Senior Accountant?

**The Minister of Transport:** Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the hon. Member's attention to the White Paper which the House approved establishing the Department. The Department is divided into different sections: we have the Accounts section, the Navigation section, the Hydrological section, the Stores section, and this Department is self-accounting. In the past the accounting was done by the Ports Authority.

*Question, That sub-head 12 be increased by £5,000, put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Transport** (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Sir, I have it in command from the Governor-General to move to include the following provisions:

Clearance of Inland Waterways—	£10,000
Buoyage Equipment—	£2,500.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion by the Minister of Transport, and in doing so I note that so much is being provided for the clearance of Inland Waterways, and I would like to place on record the importance to the people of my area and of Abak and Opobo Divisions of the Qua Iboe River.

No doubt, quite a number of rivers all over the country will be involved in this clearance scheme, but when we know the important products being handled along this river, we know that such a river should receive priority of clearance.

The main crop produced by the people of the three Divisions I have mentioned—Ikot Ekpene, Abak and Opobo—is palm fruits yielding palm oil and kernels. To-day we know that the price of palm oil and kernels stands a better chance for consideration than the price of cocoa. In fact, well examined, you will notice that the principle for the allocation of revenue is now out-dated because the value of cocoa has gone down while that of palm oil and kernel has not. So even if the principle of allocation of revenue is revised, you will see that the area producing palm oil and kernels should deserve a better proportion. For that reason, Mr Chairman, I am mandated to bring to the notice of the Minister of Transport the importance of this river.

Right on the estuary of the Qua Iboe River is the Boatyard at Opobo, and it is a matter for regret that up to date this Department has not cleared the waterways to enable us to float at least one launch from the Opobo Boatyard and yet so many of them are being produced and used along other rivers. The people of Abak Division in particular and also of Opobo Division have to carry their palm oil and kernels in small canoes along these uncleared waterways to Opobo to sell and we know that to-day the foreign firms in this country have captured the motor transport trade. So, what remains for the people of these areas is that waterway along the Qua Iboe River. So I am urging that this young Department should endeavour to place the Qua Iboe River on top priority so that when the clearance work begins this river will be cleared right up to Nto Edino so that the people of these areas can develop an interest in using the waterways for the evacuation of their produce down to the port at Opobo.

Mr Chairman, with these remarks, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I did not like to call the hon. Member down on a point of order because he has been away for some time and I thought the House would like to hear his voice.

The particular river the hon. Member is referring to is not a Federal waterway, but I want to assure him, Sir, that the Inland Waterways Department will be very pleased to clear any Regional waterway on payment to the Federal Government.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I do not want to prolong this but I do not want the Minister of Works to go scot free to-day. So I would like to mention one thing which I would like the Minister to explain fully to us. I support whatever vote he is asking for for the purpose of clearing our inland waterways. I mentioned one point here in passing the other time and the Minister had no time to explain to me.

On a subject allied to this the Minister told us that the Northern Regional Government donated to the Federal Government a sum of £200,000. Well, I said that constitutionally the Northern Regional Government was not bound to give that money and that it would be a dangerous precedent to say that if you wanted to develop any Region or to discharge Federal responsibility we must impose a levy upon the Region concerned. I would like the Minister to assure us on that particular point. He is again reverting to the same issue in answering one hon. Member here.

The Federal Government is at liberty, if it so desires, to declare any inland waterway as inter-Regional waterway and it therefore becomes a Federal responsibility. Why must they come and pay to him before he discharges his own responsibility? I would like that point to be made clear. It would not be fair to people whose main means of transport is river to impose this responsibility on them. They have no trunk 'A' road, no trunk 'B' road, no trunk 'X' road or trunk 'Y' road. All they have is their river and it is up to us to spend some money to develop this for them so that they may have easy means of transport.

I would appeal to the Minister once more not to impose any duty on them in order that he may discharge his own responsibility.

Now, the second point is in connection with the ports along these inland waterways. I mentioned also the other day that the Federal Government, without any reference to this House whatsoever, entered into a contract with some trading firms and transferred to them some ports in the Western Region.

Under what power that has been done I have no idea. But by agreement at the Constitutional Conference we all stated that all these ports are Federal responsibility. If the Federal Government wants to contract out of that agreement, in fairness to all concerned it should have been round another conference table. But now they say they entered into agreement that these ports—Sapele and so on—should still remain in the hands of some trading firms. I understand that the argument is that we have got no money to develop them now. If that is the case the agreement whereby they should continue to be in possession of these ports for the next twenty-five years is unfair.

**An hon. Member**: As agents?

**Chief Akintola**: Whether they are agents or not is a different matter. They are not agents: they are there as the owners of the ports. You stated that it belonged to them originally; when the law transferred ownership to the Federal Government the Federal Government was not in a position to pay the compensation and in order that the Government may contract out of its own obligation to pay compensation it allowed these trading firms to keep these ports. I think we are merely postponing the evil day. At one point or another we will have to pay and these people will have to clear out. I do not say they should not be paid but it will be unfair if even the Minister or the Governor was determined to pass its own responsibility to other people the Government is in duty bound to bring the matter to the Floor of this House for proper debate.

After we shall have had our say then the Government may have its own way but it is too often now that the Government will go and commit the whole country, commit itself before reporting here. That is over-straining the loyalty of even Mr Hew. If this continues persistently they are bound to revolt some day.

All these other reports on which the action on the international waterways was based were never discussed on the Floor of this

House and I feel that the Minister will do well to give us an assurance that he is not signing away these inland waterway ports and that we will still be in a position any time to take these ports away from these foreign firms. If we are in a position financially next year to take them over let the agreement be worded in such a way that we would be empowered to take them over at that particular time.

**The Minister of Transport**: Mr Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition raised two points and I am sorry to say that, although he is usually in the habit of ascertaining the real facts before speaking on matters in the House, I am afraid on these two points which he raised he is gravely misinformed.

In the first place he spoke of the Constitutional Conference of 1953. He was there and I was there. We did not say in the Conference nor did it appear in the Order in Council that the Federal Government could declare every waterway as its responsibility. We said the Federal responsibility of waterways are all matters on tidal wave and the River Niger and its outfall. This is a very confusing definition and I hope when we go to the Conference in May we will be able to change that definition because it amounts to more or less every stream of water in the country being declared a Federal responsibility.

Another point made by the Leader of the Opposition about the contribution by the Regional Governments for carrying out purely Federal Government responsibility is a point we have been considering and I have been thinking about it. When I made the point that the Northern Region contributed £200,000 I did not tell the House that the Northern Regional Government was forced to make this contribution. If a Region is very anxious for work to be carried out and it is not in the priority list of the Federal Government, for the sake of happy co-operation and relationship I think it is only good for the Federal Government to work if there is the fund, but if you can contribute we will be able to carry on otherwise you had better wait until the time we are able to carry it out with our money.

**Chief S. L. Akintola**: Point of explanation. Will the Minister then give an assurance that this money will be refunded in due course?

**The Minister of Transport**: No, Sir. My hon. Friend was referring to Federal

waterway, which is a Regional responsibility, and under the present Constitution a service of a Government carried out by another Government should be paid for. That is why I say the Inland Waterways Department will be quite prepared to carry out the clearing work on any Regional waterway provided the Regional Government is prepared to pay.

The Leader of the Opposition touched on the question of ports. He said the Federal Government handed over its ports to private companies. That is wrong. The ports belong to the private companies. When we established the Nigerian Ports Authority I told this House that at present the Ports Authority will be able only to take over the ports of Lagos and Port Harcourt. I am busy trying to improve navigation on our rivers and creeks. Without a firm assurance to these companies who own these ports there is not doubt that the firms will not be able to sink in money for their development and at the present moment Government is not in a position to put out all the money that is required for our port development. That is why the White Paper on Rivers policy was produced. I hope all the hon. Members have read this White Paper. It is not a question of our doing this thing behind the back of the House of Representatives. Surely if a White Paper is produced every Member of this House is able to table a Motion for the White Paper to be debated.

**Chief Akintola :** After the thing has been done?

**The Minister of Transport :** I do not know what the Leader of the Opposition really wants us to do, if we can do nothing until we bring it here. He seems to forget that whether we sit here very day and every night there are things the Federal Government should do before coming to the House.

I think this covers all the points and I would like to tell the House that the House should be really interested to know that the Nigerian Ports Authority is still the harbour authority. The firms continue of course to own their shore installations. No doubt if the hon. Leader of the Opposition had read the White Paper he could see that we are under certain obligations by international law as far as international waterways are concerned and Government has some control over these ports.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Question, That an increased sum of £383,070 for Head 62—Inland Waterways Department—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

HEAD 66—COASTAL AGENCY

*Question proposed, That £116,400 for Head 66—Coastal Agency—stand part of the Schedule.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**The Chairman :** I propose to continue going through the Heads until anybody moves to report progress.

HEAD 67—MINISTRY OF WORKS

*Question proposed, That £20,590 for Head 67—Ministry of Works—stand part of the Schedule.*

*The Chairman here proceeded to put the questions necessary to dispose of Head 67 but was interrupted by the raising of a point of Order.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** Point of Order, Sir. I thought the schedule for to-day stopped at Head 66. Am I mistaken?

**The Chairman :** We have done 66.

**Chief Akintola :** Yes, and I thought that is as far as we could go.

**The Chairman :** Well, the report of the Business Committee expressly includes power for the Committee to go further than the minimum laid down.

**Chief Akintola :** That means that we need not exhaust the Ministry of Works to-day?

**The Chairman :** We need not. But I did mention—no, certainly not. Head 66 was the end of the Fifth Allotted Day but I mentioned that I proposed to continue with Heads until anybody moved to report progress.

Mr Akande, on Head 67.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North) :** I move to reduce the Head by £10..... this question ... is in connection with the building of bridges....

**The Minister of Works (Alhaji Muhammad Inuwa Wada) :** The hon. Member's remarks are inaudible to me, Sir.

**Mr Akande :** It is in connection with the contract work given to Costain's (West Africa) Limited. I put a question to the Minister: whether he is aware of the many accidents on trunk roads "A", where Costain's have constructed road diversions to enable bridges to be built and whether he will take steps....

**The Minister of Works :** I still cannot hear.

**The Chairman :** Order, order. If the hon. Member would do me the courtesy of addressing me, by speaking in this direction—as I turn towards him when I address him—it will give the Minister and the reporters a much better chance of hearing what he has to say.

**Mr Akande :** I was saying that I addressed a question to the Minister of Works; I asked if he is aware of the many accidents which have taken place at points on trunk "A" roads where Messrs Costain's (West Africa) Limited have constructed road diversions to enable bridges to be built and if he will take steps to see if these road diversions can be tarred before the rains set in this year? I got a reply from the Minister that he was not aware of accidents at these points.

It beats me that people who supply information to the Minister are not always correct. If you go only about 60 miles out of Lagos you will find buses and lorries falling by the wayside; it takes three or four days to remove these wrecked vehicles from the road. Why people should supply the Minister with incorrect information I cannot understand, but I am happy to note that it has now been arranged that these diversions are to be tarred before the coming of the rains. I think that these things should take priority and that Costains should be informed that they are to tar the roads now because the rainy season will soon set in.

Apart from this, I have a word of praise for the Minister in connection with the bridges that have been built. In this connection it is my duty to say that this Minister is a very energetic Minister—apart from people who supply wrong information. Before work was begun on these bridges he went on tour and saw nearly all the places where they were to be built, and even came to my own Division. It is my pleasure to state that my own people in Egba Division are very grateful. The speed with which the work is being done is rather marvellous and I think all sides of this House will join me in thanking the Minister for the work he has done.

*Amendment, proposed.*

**Mr F. E. Offor (Okigwi) :** I just want to make three observations on this Head.

The first one is that I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the trunk "A" road Aba-Umuahia-Okigwi-Awgu-Oji River. It was said that this road would be started some time in December last year or January this year. I was informed, Mr Chairman, that a contract has been signed and the work will start but, up till now, Sir, nothing has been seen; no materials collected and nobody seen along this road doing anything.

I would also like to know, Mr Chairman, from the Minister, about the trunk "A" road, the 42 miles from Port Harcourt to Aba which is due to be widened to 22 feet. This work also was said to be starting early this year but, up till now, nothing has been done.

Also I would like to know from the Minister of Works whether he is aware of the numerous oil beans trees along that road. These oil beans are claiming the lives of two or three people every week: it is those same trees that were responsible for the death of the hon. D. K. Onwenu, a Member of this House. I do not know what the Minister is prepared to do about clearing away those trees.

It would be much better if the Minister, while considering the widening of the road, were also to consider clearing away these trees. They were planted in the far-off days when there were no vehicles on the road and people travelled only on foot. But now there is no need for those oil bean trees which are claiming the most important lives in the Division and I would like to know from the Minister what he proposes to do about them.

**M. Abdulkadir Koguna Wakilin Riyogi (East Kano) :** Thank you Mr Chairman. In supporting this Head I would first of all like to congratulate the Minister of Works for the real achievements he has made within his portfolio, in this country, especially in the following schemes—bridges, buildings, roads, and water supply, and I hope we shall see more and more of his activities within the current year 1957-58.

Sir, I have a few remarks to make. Labour Camps on Federal roads in many cases are quite essential, not only for the labourers, but also for the masses while travelling along the roads.

Secondly, Sir, there are some mile blocks between Zaria and Parki, on Kano-Zaria new

roads, which require slight alteration. The numbers written on them are only on one side, which means you can see them while coming from Kano, but coming from Zaria one cannot read them because they are on the opposite side, and they have been like that since last year. There should be written on both sides, or the sides on which they are written should face the road.

A further point I would like to make Sir, and this point is rather important. I hope the Federal Minister will discuss with the Regional Minister in order to see that certain unnecessary redundant expatriate officers are reduced under Public Works Department. I am not against the employment of expatriate officers, but they should be employed only when necessary, because, Sir, some of these people come out here to Nigeria without any qualifications or previous experience. They learn the job or the particular work they have to do from the Nigerians or from the people who did the work before them. Such people cannot construct roads, wells, *et cetera*, better than the experienced Nigerians. They cannot construct bridges, or make plans of a house and build it, or construct water reservoirs, or erect braithwaite tanks or windmills, *et cetera*, but have to learn all these jobs from experienced people, Nigerians, who can do these jobs efficiently, but yet are paid very little. I would like the Minister please to consider giving special promotion to such people.

I hope, Sir, that the Minister will advise his Colleagues in the Regions that these people, are the people doing the most difficult and dangerous work in this country, as well as the most useful, and are deserving of recognition. They should be especially appreciated by the rural areas of this country as a whole. I hope special modification will be made in the near future to their wages, gratuity, pension, periodical pay, compensation, *et cetera*.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr F. E. Turton Hart** (Special Member): Mr Chairman, Sir, with due respect to the hon. Member, I would like to speak against this Motion. I feel that this year we ought to congratulate the Minister (*Cheers*).

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): The Minister is smiling.

**Mr Turton-Hart**: Since we were last here, Sir, the Minister has achieved quite a lot and he has gone a long way to meet many of

the criticisms raised a year ago. I am not referring to his Exhibition or to his Film Show, or even to his excellent speeches on the radio. I am referring Sir, to the fact that we now have consulting engineers helping the Public Works Department through their lack of executive capacity. In addition further contracts have been let in connection with the strengthening of our bridges and the widening of our roads, and it is most important that when we do see something really achieved during any one year we ought to express our pleasure and gratification.

There is I think this point, that roads cost a great deal of money, and I am not sure that during this *Five-Year Economic Plan*, the Minister got quite as large a slice of the Financial Secretary's cake as he deserved. I hope that when the next plan is drawn up he might have a little sugar on the top of his slice.

Having praised the Minister I trust he will forgive me if I do suggest one or two points about which some of us are not too happy. The hon. Minister announced earlier in this Session that the Government has accepted in principle that a new bridge should be built linking Lagos to the Mainland. He also said I think that this bridge would be built to the east of the existing bridge.

I know that a meeting was held to allow the inhabitants of Lagos to express opinions on this subject, but it was held at very short notice and I am quite sure that many people who had opinions on the subject did not have the opportunity to state them. The reason given, I believe, for locating the suggested bridge on that site was that if it was placed on the other side of Carter Bridge it might interfere with the Ijora B Power Station. I am under the impression that whichever side of Carter Bridge it is placed, the approaches on the Iddo end would have to be made by reclaiming more land, and if you can reclaim it on one side I think you can reclaim it on the other side.

Now, Sir, the hon. the Minister also told us that to ease our traffic problems in Lagos he was arranging for an expert to come here and report on these matters. I would like to suggest that if this expert is given the opportunity to hear the views of all of us who live in Lagos, he might even agree with us that the bridge ought to be on the other side. And I trust that, should this matter come to the Minister's notice, I hope that he would remember that it

does not matter really which side it is as long as it is in the best interests of the people who have to travel over it every day.

There is one other unfortunate point which I find in the White Paper published on the first year's operations of the present *Economic Plan*, and that mentions that no work will be done on widening the Denton Causeway owing to the increase in cost of the new roads to Apapa, both from Iddo and the Western Avenue.

Now, Sir, many of us travel up and down the Denton Causeway every day. I know that the original suggestion was that when these new roads, the Western Avenue and the new approach road to Apapa, are completed, the dense traffic on the Denton Causeway will be reduced. But I beg leave to doubt that. Anyone who has been caught in a traffic jam opposite the Mainland Hotel will observe that in the peak traffic periods there is far more traffic coming from Yaba than there is from Apapa and, with the very high annual registration of new vehicles in Lagos, I feel quite sure that the lessening of traffic produced by these two new roads will be more than overcome by the fresh registrations, of people living in Yaba and Ebute Metta and in Mushin, and other residential areas.

Finally, Sir, we have the plight of one section of the community which uses this road, about which very little is heard, and that is the cyclists. Every morning, many hundreds of cyclists come into Lagos to work. It is a very hazardous journey for the cyclist, he has to carry out a bitter war with the drivers of buses, lorries and private cars. If he is not careful his bicycle is damaged, and I think that their number is increasing, too. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that if nothing can be done to widen the road from Iddo Station to the Mainland that he would consider making a temporary cycle path. It would not be very expensive, it needs not be very wide, but it would enable this tremendous number of cyclists to travel in some degree of security which they do not have now. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, I support.

*And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Chairman left the Chair to report progress, and ask leave to sit again.*

*Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.*

*Committee report progress—to sit again, tomorrow.*

### Adjournment

**The Attorney-General of the Federation** (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth): Sir, I beg to move, That the House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power** (Alhaji M. Ribadu): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question, That this House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Thursday the 21st March, 1957.*

### QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

*Question—*

**W.92. Mr J. A. Effiong** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power:—

If he will consider compiling a comprehensive atlas map of Nigeria as a matter of urgent necessity.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power**: It is assumed that the question means a comprehensive atlas bound up as a book.

The Federal Survey Department has published sets of maps on the scale of 1:3,000,000, or 47.3 miles to an inch, which shew such general information about Nigeria as Rainfall, Maximum and Minimum Temperatures, Vegetation, generalised Geology, Communications and the like. There are at present sets of these maps, bound in paper covers, which may be purchased from the Department at a lower price than in book form.

2. The paramount mapping need of Nigeria at this stage of its economic development is for new maps of areas, which have never before been adequately mapped, on the larger scales of 0.79 and 1.57 miles to the inch, rather than the production of an atlas in book form.

*Question—*

**O.144. Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

When direct telephone services will be provided at Owerri to Enugu, Port Harcourt, Umuahia and Onitsha, in place of the existing single line service through the already congested exchange at Aba.



Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** In the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme provision has been made for four telephone trunks from Owerri to Aba instead of the single trunk as at present. These trunks will be extended to Enugu, Port Harcourt, Umuahia and Onitsha if the telephone traffic justifies direct trunks. Meanwhile, congestion will be removed by the provision as part of the Development Plan of additional trunks between Aba and Enugu and Port Harcourt. The work will be carried out before 1960.

Question—

**O.203. Mr J. I. Izah** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

In view of the great demand for cash payment at the Kwale Post Office which is the only one serving the Division of 150,000 people, if he will consider increasing the cash reserve there so as to avoid the frequent delay in paying out cash.

Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The inadequacy of the cash reserve at Kwale came under notice in December last and it was increased in February. Moreover the Postmaster has been authorised to draw cash from the local Treasury should it be necessary. The situation now appears to be satisfactory.

Question—

**O.205. Mr F. N. E. Ngale** asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

What research activities the Department of Federal Research has in the Southern Cameroons.

Answer—

**The Minister of Research and Information :** The only Federal research activity actually being conducted in the Southern Cameroons at present is an investigation by the Federal Fisheries Service into the habits and movement of the bonga, a fish of economic importance; this investigation is being

conducted by the research vessel *Explorer*, now based at Victoria.

However, it will be appreciated that the value of the experiments and investigations carried out by the four Departments for which my Ministry is responsible is by no means restricted to the area in which the experiments are conducted. The Departments in question are the Agricultural and Forest Research Departments in Ibadan, the Veterinary Research Department at Vom, and the Federal Fisheries Service in Lagos. As a matter of convenience, much of their work is naturally carried out at, or near, their respective headquarters, but the Southern Cameroons shares, with the Regions of the Federation, the beneficial results of these investigations and the Government of the Southern Cameroons is represented not only on the Council of Natural Resources, but also on the Technical Committees of the Council, whose function it is to consider and co-ordinate the programmes of the Research Departments.

Question—

**O.206. Mr F. N. E. Ngale** asked the Minister of Research and Information :—

If he will give grants to the Research Department of the Cameroons Development Corporation in order to extend its activities.

Answer—

**The Minister of Research and Information :** No, Sir. I do not propose to recommend that the Federal Government should give grants to such quasi-Government bodies as the Cameroons Development Corporation for the purpose of extending their Research Departments.

However, the hon. Member will appreciate that the research programmes of the Federal Research Departments are co-ordinated by the Council of Natural Resources and its Technical Committees, on all of which the Southern Cameroons are represented; and that the Southern Cameroons, as well as the Regions of the Federation, benefit from the experiments and investigations conducted within those programmes.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Thursday, 21st March, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

Question—

**\*O.207. M. Usmanu Maitambari** (Central Gwandu) asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will consider providing electricity in Birnin Kebbi?

Answer—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power** (Mr Ibrahim S. Usman) : Yes, Sir, in due course but at present if Birnin Kebbi were provided with electricity the undertaking would not be economically viable.

Question—

**O.208. M. Usmanu Maitambari** (Central Gwandu) asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will state how many towns in the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions respectively were provided with electricity in 1956.

Answer—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power :** No new supply was afforded to any town in the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions during 1956.

Question—

**O.220. Chief E. O. Omolodun** (Oyo South) asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will consider a geological survey of Oyo Division in view of a possible discovery of minerals in the Division.

Answer—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power :** I am informed that geological mapping of the Oyo half degree sheet No. 241 has been started.

Question—

**\*O.221. Chief E. O. Omolodun** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will take steps to supply electricity to Oyo Division in view of the progress being made in the development of the area.

Answer—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power :** Yes, Sir. The possibility of supplying Oyo, Iwo and Ogbomoso with electricity is under investigation.

Question—

**O.222. Mr G. O. Ebea** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he is aware of the discovery of coal deposits at Ewohimi, Ishan Division; and what steps he proposes to take to investigate the extent and quality of the deposits.

Answer—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power :** No, Sir. I am not aware of the existence of any coal deposits at Ewohimi, Ishan Division.

Supplementary to O.222—

**Mr G. O. Ebea :** Will the hon. Minister accept this as a notification of the availability of coal in Ewohimi?

Question—

**O.249. Mr J. O. Igwe** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he is aware of the inadequate and irregular supply of electricity in Abakaliki; and what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

Answer—

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Land, Mines and Power :** Yes, Sir. The inadequate supply was due to the fact that one of the two generating sets broke down and while it was under repair it was only possible to supply electricity on alternate evenings. However I am assured that the supply is again back to normal.

To avoid a similar occurrence in the future the provision of a further generating set is under consideration.

Supplementary to O.249—

**Mr J. O. Igwe :** Will the Minister consider taking one of the stand-by engines at Enugu to Abakaliki?

Question—

**\*O.179. Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Minister of Social Services :—

If he will state how many teachers are being trained annually in the Federal Territory of Lagos; and what is being done to increase the number?

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Social Services** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): 133 Teachers are being trained now and this figure will rise to approximately 165 next year when the new Government Teachers' Training College is opened at Suru-Lere. A Muslim Teachers' Training College is being planned and construction of the buildings is expected to begin later this year.

*Question—*

\*O.180. Mr L. L. Lakunle asked the Minister of Social Services:—

When Faculty of Law will be established in the University College, Ibadan.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Social Services:**

(a) The establishment of a Faculty of Law is a matter for the University College Authorities to decide after they have considered the report of the recent Visitation.

(b) Meanwhile the Minister has been informed that the new Department of Economics and Social Studies hopes to start courses in Law next year.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

THE APPROPRIATION (1957-58) BILL

(SIXTH ALLOTTED DAY)

(House in Committee)

(Progress: HEAD 67.—MINISTRY OF WORKS)

*Amendment again proposed to reduce the Head by £10—(Mr Akande).*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I rise to support this Amendment, not because I feel that the Minister requires to be reduced in status but because I feel that there are some aspects of the work of the Ministry which require being looked closely into. One aspect of it, to which I would invite the attention of the Ministry, is contract labour by the Public Works Department.

In the first place, it is incurably slow. If the P.W.D. handles any job directly, they are always racing, not against time to complete it, but against an eternity. There is no urge to get the work completed; in fact the longer the

better. I have known a case in which about 10 Public Works Carpenters took more than one week to hang up a door. (*Laughter*). It sounds almost incredible but it is absolutely true and I wonder whether it is economic for us to continue to charge the Public Works Department with doing jobs directly themselves.

In the first place, as I said, their work is too slow. In the second place, they are making the cost of labour too high and excessive. Although the work is slow too many people who spend too long a time to get the job done are among the workers who have caused the most agitation for increase of pay; less work more pay all the time. They are making things difficult for ordinary contractors, they are keeping the cost of building very high. For this reason I feel that we must give second thoughts to the idea of doing the job by direct labour.

The top point in support of this argument against direct labour is that by direct labour the Public Works Department is entering into an unfair competition with private contractors. To them it does not matter how much they spend to get a job finished, if even they exhaust the Vote for that particular job, they are in a privileged position to ask for more money, but the private contractor cannot go unduly beyond the contract price, and by allowing this direct labour we are giving the Public Works Department the opportunity of entering into a field of unfair competition with the contractors.

The other point to which I would like to invite the attention of the Ministry is in connection with the award of contracts. I am sure those who are interested in contract work have circulated certain information to many of the Members of this hon. House. I understand that the allegations contained in this circular have been brought to the notice of the Ministry and I do hope that the Minister will allay our fears by giving us a satisfactory explanation on the point. I would like the Minister in particular to answer this specifically.

I have thought that our policy of Nigerianisation is not limited to the persons of those who do the job; I have thought that we wanted to Nigerianise the carrying out of our contracts. We have not done that. If I can give one example:— You have what they call "C.H.2" type buildings, at the moment, a common contract which has been given out will show the policy which the Ministry pursues in our wording of contracts. I think it is an indefen-

sible policy. I do not lay this at the door of the Minister, other people get the job distributed or the contract distributed, but I would invite the attention of the Minister personally to see to it that whoever may be responsible for our wording of contracts, are carrying out the policy of this hon. House. At the moment, they are not carrying out our policy; they are carrying out their own individual policy which is so much more detestable.

They awarded twenty-one contracts, that is a contract to build twenty-one No. T. 82 Type of buildings. To whom? To Cappa and D'Alberto. That is for the current year. They are to build twenty-one houses and the cost of these houses is in the neighbourhood of £300,000 for Cappa and D'Alberto alone! Also, you know that the Cappa and D'Alberto have got their cousins here—Dyss and Trocca. That sounds like an Italian name too. They are cousins of Cappa and D'Alberto. They too have nine of those houses, making a total of thirty-two to Italian firms.

Now, how many do we have for Nigerians? Two to S. B. Bakare, one to G. Akin Taylor and one to J. A. Oni and Sons, making four. Four to the indigenous contractors as against thirty-two to Italian firms! Now, if they are types of buildings which our own contractors cannot handle, I have no objection, they may be handed over to other people. But this is absolutely indefensible.

Well, that is one point to which I would like to invite the attention of the Ministry. But it does not even end there. Now, according to the information which we gathered from those who ought to know, there are 177 Nigerian contractors registered by the P.W.D. Obviously, they must have satisfied conditions laid down by the Department before they were registered. During the current year, the total contracts handed over to all these 177 people in their own rank totalled £120,000. As against 177 Nigerian contractors, we have 27 expatriate contractors. Out of these 27 expatriate contractors, one only of them received a contract during the current year totalling not less than £2 million. £2 million to one foreign firm as against £120,000 to all the Nigerian contractors put together.

This is an indefensible policy and I would like the Ministry to look closely into this matter. We cannot keep on pampering these

foreign contractors, making it easy for them to make money, while at the same time we are making it difficult for our own people.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Self-government for foreigners!

**Chief Akintola**: I think it is a policy which is suicidal and the sooner we put an end to it the better. As I said, the award of contracts may not be the direct responsibility of the Minister. I am not suggesting that but I think he ought to look more carefully into what is happening down below. A lot of things are happening which the Minister must pay special attention to.

Now, how do they even treat these expatriate contractors? Even after the contracts are awarded, the expatriate contractors are treated much better than the indigenous contractors. There is, for example, a clause in the contract agreement which is known as the "Variation Order". That is, if the contract is "X" pounds it does not vary unless you insert in the agreement what is known as variation clause; that is, if the contractor can prove that the cost of labour has risen or the cost of materials has risen, the contract price will be altered and an increase may be given. These variation clauses are always inserted in the contracts given to the expatriate contractors. With the African contractors, oh!, the condition is like the laws of the Medes and the Persians; it doesn't alter.

I see that the Minister is busy consulting. I know it shocks him. It shocks him. I mean, as a fair-minded person, it ought to shock anybody, and I think the sooner that it is looked into the better.

I will give you an example—the contract to which I referred, these twenty-one buildings which were handed over to Cappa and Alberto. Although on the price stipulated originally the contracts were awarded to them, a few weeks ago they made a case on the strength of the variation clause and an increase was approved to the tune of £20,000. That is £20,000 above the originally agreed figure in the agreement, because they could prove that something had happened.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Government by brigandage!

**Chief Akintola**: As a result of the insertion of this variation clause, the expatriate contractors are able to bowl out a lot of the indigenous

contractors. If it will pay an indigenous contractor to stipulate £X as the price of the contract, he knows that he will make it £X to pay him and if he makes it less he will lose. Therefore, he stipulates £X. He knows he cannot decrease it. But a foreign contractor can say—"Well, I can accept £X-10." Well, £X-10 and £X, it doesn't require the knowledge of Algebra for one to know that £X-10 is lower than £X. So, £X-10 will be given the contract.

But it doesn't end there. The foreign contractor has got the contract awarded to him but what happens afterwards? By clever manipulation, you have £X-10+2+3+Y+Z and later on the actual price to be paid to that foreign contractor may be £X+5, but that will be done after the indigenous contractor has been bowled out. Well, this is a device which we must put an end to. If it is necessary to put variation clause in a contract, let it be of a general nature. And I would like this hon. House to impress it upon the Ministry that if a Nigerian contractor can do a piece of job and his price is reasonable, he should under normal circumstances be preferred to any foreign contractor. (*Hear, hear*).

The other point I would invite the attention of the Ministry to is the fact that the Department itself is over-staffed. In that Department, you have about twenty-six Architects. What do these Architects do. They don't do the work of Architects. After all, you know, the Public Works Department is anything but original. They are glorified copyists. You have Type 1 building, Type 2, Type 3, Type C and so on. All are different stereotypes done by, I think, the Architect who preceded Father Adam. . . . (*Laughter*). . . . He did it, and all his successors are doing nothing more but copying the same thing.

**The Chairman :** Am I wrong in thinking that the subject of these Architects is really dealt with under Head 68 to which there is an amendment by a Colleague of Chief Akintola? I think we had better reserve that until the amendment comes up.

**Chief Akintola :** All right, Sir, I will come back to that later. I shall allow the sleeping dogs to lie, not to die, and they may keep on snoring in the meantime until we come back to that. (*Laughter*).

Now, the other point I would invite the attention of the Minister to is the reconstruction

of the old bridges along Trunk A roads. I think the Minister deserves the congratulations of the House for embarking upon that bold policy.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) :** May his beard grow longer.

**Chief Akintola :** For the economic development of this country, the type of improvement which is going on now is absolutely necessary. But I wonder whether we are not making a mistake in that respect. I notice that as a rule the bridges are more or less of the same width as the old ones were, and I think wherever it is possible the width of these bridges should be increased so that they can take two vehicles at the same time.

I would appeal to the hon. Minister to keep an eye on one important point—that is the maximum weight that these bridges, and our roads for that matter, can take. I don't know what the present figure is, but until the bridges are strengthened the present structure will affect our road transport economy. I think this is a subject that was raised by an hon. Member who knew quite a lot about the matter, some two years ago. He said then that the structure of our bridges was not adequate to carry traffic in any great quantity, and that it would in turn affect our road transport economy adversely. As a rule only lorries of up to five tons can ply on our highways and bridges, they will not take lorries of up to say, 10 tons, 15 tons, or even 20 tons. Until our roads and bridges are reconstructed to carry these heavier weights and tonnages, the economy of our road transport will be wasted. I hope the hon. Minister will allay our fears in this respect.

Finally the Minister mentioned that the Trunk A Roads would be extended by some 90 miles. Well, I have no objection to this extension, but I think it is disgraceful that anyone travelling on these roads say from the Lagos Terminus to the last terminus on the outskirts of the Sahara, comes across portions of untarred roads. The time has come for us to have a first-class road right through for the use of international travellers as well as the indigenous people of this country.

We hope the hon. Minister would try and enter into some agreement with the hon. Financial Secretary, whereby he will get enough to carry out his project. If necessary that he will persuade the Financial Secretary with sweet words and force something out of him—by hook or by crook.

I appeal to the hon. Minister to prevail upon the hon. Financial Secretary that whenever the hon. Minister speaks to him about money for his roads, he will listen attentively and make the money available for the improvement of our Trunk Roads. After all he is speaking not only for himself, but for all sides of this honourable House, and I am sure that the hon. Financial Secretary would not act contrary to the known wishes of this honourable House.

**The Minister of Works (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it is appropriate for me to get up at this moment, although some hon. Members may think it is too early. I want the hon. Members to remember that I did not have an opportunity to address the House on the speech from the Throne, so I think if I deliver a short speech on the activities of the Department within my portfolio it may stop some of the questions and criticisms coming. (*Applause*).

The Committee will wish me to give some account of my stewardship at the Ministry of Works and of the substantial activities of the Federal Public Works Department during this financial year.

We are now at the end of the second year of our Five Year Economic Programme and it is against this background that I should like to paint in the details of accomplishment during this year. Members will realise that it takes some time to get a programme of this size into top gear and full productive effort. Inevitably much time must be spent on the preliminary planning side of the operation, the carrying out of surveys and the work which forms part of the preparation of specifications for contracts. There have been, as the House knows, grave difficulties due to shortages of staff. I will refer to this matter again later on. In spite of these difficulties I am glad to tell the House that this year has been one of solid achievement and that the tempo of activity is showing a satisfactory rise. (*Applause*).

I would like the House to bear with me if I relate now some of the details of work carried out in the last twelve months. On the Public Works Extraordinary side, buildings to a value of £2,283,000 have been completed, compared with a figure of £1,236,000 last year. £2,500,000 worth of buildings are at present under construction, while another £4,250,000 are on the drawing board. (*Some hon. Members : Who built them?*)

Among notable buildings completed is the Air Terminal at Kano, costing £450,000, which is shortly to be opened by His Excellency the Governor-General. This building, as Members who have seen it will agree, is a remarkable piece of architecture and engineering and one which will make a worthy gateway on the international air route into and through Nigeria. Also there is the V.H.F. building at Enugu costing £40,000. This is the first of a series of such buildings which form an important part of the telecommunications building programme. Another building I would like to mention is the University College Teaching Hospital at Ibadan which is now well on the way to completion. This is the largest single building ever constructed in Nigeria and probably in the whole of West Africa. The hospital is being built to standards which will bear comparison with those of any hospital in the world. It is a combined effort of the doctors, the architects and the engineers in which we Nigerians can justly take a pride.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** Who were the contractors?

**The Minister of Works :** I shall come to that point later.

I would like now to give a brief resume of present activity on the highways and bridges on the Federal Trunk Road System. Solid progress has been made here too. In bare figures this year's output include 85 miles of new road constructed, 200 miles tarred and reconstructed and some 32 new bridges. The value of the work put out to contract runs at a figure around £3½ million.

As Members who have recently used it know, work on the bridges on Trunk Road A. 1 between Tegina and Mando and Lagos and Ibadan is proceeding rapidly. Members from the Abeokuta area will have noticed the activity at the site of the new Lafenwa Bridge. As I mentioned in answer to a question on Tuesday, the contract for the new Kubanni Bridge is almost ready and tenders will be invited at the end of this month. Further north two major bridges over the Challowa and Kogin-Kano Rivers are making good progress in spite of considerable difficulties with the foundations. On the Maiduguri-Fort Lamy road the bridge at Gambarou is being replaced at an estimated cost of £50,000. Work has continued actively on the Taraba River Bridge where great difficulties have been experienced owing to the

short period of low water when work on the foundations is possible.

In the Eastern Region two new double carriageway bridges have been completed on the Enugu-Onitsha road and two more on the Onitsha-Owerri road. (*Loud applause.*)

In the Southern Cameroons the work of replacing the old timber bridges between Mamfe and Bamenda is proceeding rapidly.

On Trunk Road A. 1, in addition to the task of replacing the defective bridges, work is in hand for the laying of a bituminous surface between Ilorin and Jebba. A firm of consulting engineers, Messrs. Ove Arup, have carried out the survey and preparation of the contract documents for the tarring from Jebba to Mokwa, and the contract has been let. The survey is now continuing towards Kontagora.

As regards Trunk Road A. 3, we have let the contract for widening the Port Harcourt to Aba section from 12 to 22 feet of tarred surface. Tenders for tarring the first 56 miles of the Aba-Oji River section are due in the middle of April. I expect tenders for the remainder of this section will be invited early in May. Messrs Travers Morgan, consulting engineers, are at present engaged in preparing contract documents for the reconstruction and tarring from 9 mile Corner to Aliade. There are certain particularly bad spots between Makurdi and Jos which will require attention. I am waiting estimates of the cost of these repairs which are being prepared in the Northern Region. I expect the tarring of the 10 miles north of Makurdi towards Lafia to begin shortly. On the Bauchi-Kari section of Trunk Road A. 3, 10 miles of tarring and reconstruction had been completed by January and a further 24 miles are in hand.

Trunk Road A. 4. The five miles from Umuamba northward towards Mbanda have been tarrred and work is in hand for a further 12 miles from Mbanda towards Mamfe. The remainder of this section of the road is being surveyed for reconstruction and tarring by contract. Similarly, work is proceeding for the construction of a road between Serti and Ntari and between Uba and Bama in the Northern Cameroons. I understand that the road from Uba as far as Michika is almost complete.

Trunk Road A. 11. A firm of consultants has been requested to survey and prepare documents for tarring this road between

Abakaliki and Yahe. From the Cross River Bridge to Mamfe tarring and reconstruction is being carried out by direct labour and being paid for from the United States International Co-operation Administration funds. The 12 miles between Mamfe and Akagbe have been completed.

Trunk Road A.12: Estimates have been called for in preparation for bridge reconstruction between Bamenda and Santa.

Trunk Road A.13: The tarring from Ilorin to Ajasse is expected to start in the near future while work is in hand for the reconstruction of Mopa and Effo bridges. I hope that the greater efforts at maintenance will result in considerable improvement to the surface of this road.

Trunk Road A.14: Yola-Takum. 20 miles of new roadwork were completed south of the Taraba Bridge during the year, bringing the total completed mileage to 220.

Trunk Road A.15: Sokoto-Yelwa-Kontagora. A Federal Engineer and Inspector of Works have been posted to this road to carry out such improvements to the drainage and surface as can be managed within the limited available funds.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): This is an annual report; what are you doing about contracts?

**The Minister of Works**: Trunk Road A.16: Kaduna-Jos. I propose that a start be made to tar a 30-mile section of this road when the team at present engaged in resealing the Bukuru-Assob road has completed this task.

Trunk Road A.17: Gombe-Numan. The Gombe-Kumo section is now under construction following a new line which will eliminate all bridges. I expect 8 miles will have been completed by the end of this month.

Trunk Road A.19: Preparatory work for the tarring of the Zaria-Funtua section is in hand. A survey is also being carried out to re-align some 20 miles of road between Funtua and Gusau. The contract for the replacement of all bridges between Gusau and Sokoto, costing £250,000 has been let. I am informed, however, that work is likely to be held up owing to the world-wide shortage of steel.

Trunk Road A.20: Katsina-Jibiya. The tarring of this road was completed during the year.

Trunk Road A.21: Kano-Maiduguri. This road from Kano to Mile 82 now has a tarred surface which is being extended towards Kari. Between Kari and Maiduguri 100 miles of tarred surface have been laid, leaving a further 48 miles to complete the job. On the Maiduguri-Bama section, Messrs Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and Partners, consulting engineers, are now engaged in preparing contract documents for the construction of a 22 feet tarred road and the replacement of a timber bridge over the Alo River near Maiduguri.

Trunk Road A.22: Takum-Bissaula-Kamine. Work is proceeding from the eastern end by direct labour and so far 8 miles have been completed.

I turn now to the work being carried out in the Lagos area. First, a new bituminous carpet was recently laid over Denton Causeway from Iddo station to the Mainland Hotel. Second, Iddo Overbridge: this contract was let last year and work is progressing satisfactorily. This is the first major bridge to be constructed in this country using pre-stressed concrete methods. The completion date is February next year. Next, Ebute-Metta Causeway: good progress is being made on this project which is now ahead of its planned schedule. Western Avenue: this project has been placed in the hands of Messrs Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and Partners, who expect to be ready to invite tenders in the near future.

Members representing the Lagos area will be glad to hear that the joint effort of the Railway Corporation and the P.W.D. to provide drains for flood-water in Clifford Street should be completed before next rains.

Lagos Water Supply. A million gallon elevated steel tank is now being erected near Apapa. A second tank of the same type will be put up this year in the Onikan area. These two balancing tanks will help to keep up water pressure in this city during peak periods. New high lift pumps and pipes to duplicate the rising main from the Water Works to Shaga Reservoir are on order.

The Federal Public Works Department is maintaining twenty-seven aerodromes, eighteen of which are in regular use. Major improvements to several aerodromes are under preparation. Benin, Enugu and Jos will soon have new terminal buildings; the one at Benin is already under construction. Surveys are being carried out at Enugu, Benin and Oshogbo for

the improvement and expansion of the runways so that larger aircraft can be accommodated in all weathers. A new runway has been designed for Kaduna airport to take all types of aircraft in use in West Africa including the Stratocruiser which weighs about seventy tons. The runway at Port Harcourt aerodrome is being sealed with bitumen. Consulting engineers have made a preliminary survey for a new aerodrome at Onitsha.

I hope I have not bored the House with this recital of the Department's accomplishments during the year. It is a good record and one of which the Department can be justly proud. And here I would like to pay a tribute to the Regional Ministries and the Departments working under them. The co-operation we have had from them has been truly magnificent.

A word about the staff position. A year ago the staff position was very grave. To-day it is still serious, though better than it was. The vacancies among senior engineering staff were last year running at about 33½ per cent. Now the figure is rather less. Moreover, we have resorted to the device of using the services of firms of consulting engineers to carry out work which would normally form part of the functions of the Federal Public Works Department. The use of consultants in this way is expensive, but I have come to the firm conclusion that the only alternative, of leaving the work undone and so holding up the Programme, is not to be countenanced. The additional cost of using consultants in this way will be recouped from the general economic benefit to the country deriving from the earlier completion of the roads and buildings.

Reverting to the staff position, the House will be glad to know that in the senior grades of the Department Nigerianisation is proceeding at an encouraging pace. In fact, the Federal Public Works Department must be one of the leaders in this respect. On the senior permanent staff we have fifty Nigerians compared with ninety-eight expatriates. In the administrative, engineering and planning offices there are ten Nigerian Executive Engineers, one architect, one electrical engineer, one mechanical engineer and one executive officer. There are a further six Nigerians in senior posts in the accounts section and three in the stores. It has not been my policy to encourage Nigerians to take posts on the temporary staff for obvious reasons.

Consequently this latter group are almost entirely made up of expatriates. As regards vacancies, there are eighty-four pensionable posts and forty-seven temporary posts. Every effort will be made to fill these posts during the coming year.

Now that the Federal Public Works Department Programme is gaining momentum, one of the matters which has been engaging my close attention is the efficiency of the internal organisation of the Department. I am only too conscious of the scarcity of funds at our disposal and I am determined that every penny allocated to us shall be well spent. With the agreement of my Colleagues on the Council of Ministers I have brought to this country Mr M. E. Adams, the Chief Civil Engineer to the United Kingdom Board of Admiralty, to examine the Federal Department and to advise me on such improvements to its organisation as he considers necessary. I consider that we were very lucky to obtain an expert of the calibre of Mr Adams—I understand we owe his appointment to the personal efforts on our behalf of Sir John Macpherson to whom go our thanks (*applause*)—and I look forward with keen anticipation to receiving his recommendations next May. It should then be possible to begin a series of administrative reforms which will streamline the efficiency of our organisation and bring it up to date to meet the pressing requirements of this day and age.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I look forward to the completion of the Works side of the Economic Programme with sober confidence. At the end of this second year things are now beginning to hum. I expect to reach our peak output in 1957-58. From my present standpoint I forecast that shortage of funds will begin to make itself felt in 1958-59 and that by 1959-60 output will fall owing to the completion of projects and lack of finance for new ones.

The Federal Road System still leaves much to be desired, but a good start will have been made towards putting it right during this present Economic Programme. Our present funds are insufficient to carry out all the work that is necessary and which we would like to do. My policy is to spread our expenditure as widely as possible and to keep roads open wherever possible. As the economy of the country develops more money should become available for the roads. We will then be able

to build up the quality. If we were to concentrate on first class super highways in a few selected spots, many roads would break down completely and have to be closed. The economic consequences of this need no underlining. So I ask Members to be tolerant when they drive over roads which are not as good as we would like them to be and when in answer to their requests I say I am unable to tar a particular section of road through lack of funds. These things cannot all be done at once. We must cut our coat according to our cloth and contain our impatience until the time when a thriving economy can provide the funds to build the super highways we all so strongly desire.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have now finished what the Leader of the Opposition has called my annual report. I now turn to say just a few words in reply to his argument on the award of contracts. Contracts are divided into different categories starting from category 'A' to category 'G'. Category 'A' is £500 to £3,000 and then it goes up to category 'G' which is over £100,000. We have now registered with the Federal Government 182 African contractors and 25 expatriate contractors. Of the 182 African contractors 100 are all registered in category 'A'. The trouble is the Federal Public Works Department happens not to get much work in category 'A'. In fact, throughout the whole of last year there were only two contracts in category A: most of the contracts are, or have been, in the bigger categories.

Now, Sir, I want to give some rather interesting figures. In 1954-55 twelve contracts were let to African contractors, to a value of £116,800; in 1955-56 eleven contracts were awarded to African contractors, to a value of £138,600 and last year, Sir—the year for which I claim some responsibility, 1956-57—thirty-one contracts were awarded to African contractors, to a value of £440,782, more than three times the amount of money and the number of contracts awarded in the year 1954-55.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to assure hon. Members that I am not saying I am satisfied with present policy.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): What are you doing about it?

**The Minister of Works**: We are now in the Ministry trying to find ways of reorganizing. I am as much anxious as any hon.

Member here to see that Africans do get work—Africans share in the development of their own country. (*Hear, hear*). So, Mr Chairman, I want hon. Members to rest assured that we are going to do all we can to see that our African brothers in the contract business will be getting more and more work.

But, Sir, I want hon. Members to realise one thing: do not forget I am a politician and, as a politician, I must defend my integrity and my name. My policy so far has been to be as far away from contracts as possible: if you found me dabbling or meddling with the award of contracts, some Members would get up in this House and impute motives. So, Sir, within these limits, I am doing my very best. (*Applause*).

**M. Yakubu Wanka, Wazirin Bauchi** (Central Bauchi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment.

Any person, Sir, that has been listening to the Minister of Works will, no doubt, congratulate the Minister for the services rendered by his Department during the current financial year.

Mr Chairman, Sir, all those Members who came by road to Lagos will agree with me that there is a good deal of improvement in the condition of roads this year. We do not say that we are satisfied with the condition of our roads but, Sir, we must be reasonable and register our deep appreciation for what has so far been achieved.

Mr Chairman, Sir, any person regarding a country of the size of the Northern Region, and knowing the Trunk A roads that we have to-day, would, no doubt, come to the conclusion that more Trunk A roads should be made in that Region. Sir, I would like the existing roads to be tarred and also, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Minister that he should consider seriously the tarring of the Bauchi-Gombe Road. The Minister has been on that road quite recently and has an idea of the condition of it.

I really appreciate what has so far been achieved by that Minister.

**Mr J. U. Udom** (Abak): Mr Chairman, Sir, listening to this Debate, and having heard the Minister, I have to congratulate the Minister of Works for what has been achieved so far. But, when I look through the Head of this expendi-

ture, I am inclined to suggest that this Department has got sufficient staff to carry out the works for which this Federal Government is responsible. But, to my surprise, I understand that Federal public buildings in the rural areas are left to the Regional Public Works organizations, which concentrate first on the Regional responsibility and forget entirely the Federal building which were referred to them.

To be direct, Sir, I beg to refer to my Question No. O.122 at Page 1292 of the Official Report, Volume II, of 15th-29th March, 1956: "Mr J. U. Udom asked the Minister of Works:—Whether permanent police quarters for which provision was made in the police building programme for the Eastern Region in 1955-56 will now be built in the Financial Year 1956-57? *Answer*—The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works (M. Usuman Sarki, Sardaunan Bida): I can give no undertaking that the permanent police quarters required in the Eastern Region for which funds were voted in 1955-56 will be built during the year 1956-57, as the implementation of this work depends entirely on the executive capacity of the Regional Public Works Organization. During 1955-56 there was provision for permanent police quarters at Onitsha, Umuahia-Ibeku and Port Harcourt. Of these, the first is 60 per cent complete, the second is not started and the third is due to start soon."

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): And so what?

**Several hon. Members**: He is going on. Listen!

**Mr Udom**: Now, Sir, this is most unsatisfactory, for that Police Department was built before I was born—(*An hon. Member: When was that?*)—but to-day it is worse than an eyesore. Sir, I want to hear the Minister of Works make a categorical statement as to when this work will be done. Preferably it should be left to the local government body, on contract, under the supervision of P.W.D. engineers.

Another point, Sir, is the repair of Uyo Oron Bridge in Calabar Province. This bridge has been the cause of the loss of several lives for years now.

I understand that a few years ago about 35 lives were lost, and this was caused by the narrow bridge. It is not good to wait for a recurrence of a similar accident before any positive action is taken.

In conclusion Sir, I wish to appeal once more to the hon. Minister of Works to consider the possibility of bridging the River Niger between Onitsha and Asaba. Those who ever crossed this River especially by vehicles, will not argue the necessity for this important work.

**M. Hassan Yola** (North Central Adamawa): In supporting the expenditure under this Head and opposing the Amendment, may I seize the opportunity to contribute my quota of contributions to the Minister of Works for a good year's work. Everybody who has travelled along all the Trunk A roads will see and be an eye witness to the Minister's satisfactory answer to the constructive criticisms of the hon. Members. Bridges are being strengthened, the roads are being widened, dangerous corners are being straightened, and what is more encouraging is that most of the work is being given to contractors who are sure to do the work quickly and economically.

Mr Chairman Sir, I have travelled over more than one thousand miles of Trunk A road and I am quite satisfied and convinced that the work is going on to the best ability and energy of the Minister with the present strength of staff.

The Minister Sir, has travelled extensively to different parts of the Federation, including the Southern Cameroons and he did that also by road, to see for himself the quality of the roads and what repairs are necessary. He went to see Uba-Bama Road in Adamawa, but I was not very happy with the circumstances that did not make it possible for him to travel along Yola-Takum Road and Bali-Jamtari-Serti Road, which are under active construction.

Mr Chairman Sir, we the people of Yola are much more serious about the Yola-Bamenda road, as it is the only road and way by which Iambilla people can be rescued from isolation. The only transport for any development there is human transport. No progress or development of any kind is possible without this road. Sir the people of Mambilla are so keen about the road and about their development that they have constructed a road from Gembu their district headquarters to Ndu in Bamenda with communal labour, where they have spent 4,000 heads of cattle to feed the people who are doing the work.

During this dry season the people there have seen a car—a Landrover—for the first time in their lives.

When I was at Mambilla a short time ago I travelled along the road constructed by these people for five miles, and I was convinced that they had done a marvellous work with no proper tools to use.

I therefore appeal to the Minister to venture into the possibility of making a road from Gembu-Nguroje-Maisamari on the plateau before constructing the road up to the plateau itself, which might take a long time. When that is done tools can be taken from Bamenda to Maisamari to help in the construction of the road up the plateau.

When this road can be built from Gembu-Maisamari and from Serti to Mayo Selbe at the foot of Mambilla Plateau the Minister will have gone a long way to solving the problem of such a rich and keen people, who I am quite sure, will contribute greatly to the economy of Nigeria.

With these few remarks Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment.

**Oba Aiyeola Afolu II, Ewusi of Makun** (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman... (Interruption).

**Mr T. O. S. Benson**: The hon. Gentleman speaking is an Oba and it is contrary to native law and custom for hon. Members to sit down when an Oba is standing speaking.

**The Chairman**: I am afraid I cannot possibly allow that as a point of Order.

**Oba Aiyeola Afolu II**: Mr Chairman, I was a little embarrassed when the Minister of Works said that he was not in the position to dabble into the awarding of contracts in the Ministry of Works. I realise the delicate position in which the Minister is placed, but there remains the fact that as Minister in charge of the Public Works Department, he should be made aware of the need for a lot of re-organisation in the award of contracts. He is the man who directs the policy of the Department.

Mr Chairman, take for instance the question of lumping contracts. This allows contractors who are registered, I mean the foreign contractors, who are registered under a higher category to be given jobs to the exclusion of Africans in the categories in which they are registered. Buildings costing between £500 and £3,000, say twenty of them may be lumped together and given in heap to a foreign contractor. I do not refer to these foreign contractors

in a derogatory manner, but I wish to point out that such a system of lumping contracts together is to the advantage of foreign contractors and leaves our people with nothing to do. A little re-organisation, Mr Chairman, is necessary.

I understand that in England there is a system whereby a Contract Officer is put in charge of contracts: he is not responsible to a chief architect. But here Sir, what do we find? We find the chief architect is the man who takes control of everything. He is the man who directs everything and has the control of everything, with the result that our people here are being excluded from enjoying the benefit of the Government.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister has referred to the award of contracts, or rather to the amount of the award of contracts which was given to African contractors. I note that he has omitted to state the amount of contract which was awarded to foreign contractors. I think that a system whereby a larger percentage of contracts would be awarded to African contractors should be defined. I am suggesting Sir, that between 50% and 70% of the contracts awarded in the Federation of Nigeria should be awarded to Africans, after all Sir, who are the people who do the work? It is the Africans. No matter to whom the contract is awarded it is the African you find on the roof, or doing the building, or fitting the windows, it is the Africans who are really doing the work. It is only the supervision that is done by the foreigners.

So, Sir, I think a question arises whereby we must ask the Minister of Works to see that a proper Tender Board is established whereby Africans will be fully represented. The present Board, I understand, has no Africans on it. Mr Chairman, Sir, when the Minister was rendering what I regard as an annual report of his Department I found that so many roads in the North and in the East have been tarred but very little was said about the roads in the Western Region. I particularly wish to refer to the roads between Ibadan and Ilesha. Anyone who has had occasion to drive along that road, especially in the rainy season, will find that the road is very, very bad. This road, Mr Chairman, needs improvement immediately, and I am hoping that when we come to this place another time, the Minister will be able to report the progress which has been achieved so far.

Particularly speaking of bridges, I would like to refer to a very narrow bridge between Shagamu and Ibadan. The bridge is number 62/3. The bridge is a very heavy one—concreted. It must have cost a very large sum of money. But I am sorry to say that this bridge is very narrow, and it is very, very dangerous, and the sooner the bridge is pulled down and a wider bridge put there, the better.

I wish to thank the Minister (I don't want to criticise him all the time) for the bridge which is being widened at Shagamu, and the one which is being widened in Lafenwa, and the one between the round-about at Ibadan—I think it is on the Oshun River. Work had begun on that bridge as far back as 1952, but I saw about a week ago, when I went to Ibadan, that a new bridge is being built upon it.

I now come to the question of widening the roads throughout our towns. Last year, Sir, I directed a question to the Minister of Works, in respect of widening the Trunk A road through Shagamu. The people there, Sir, have mandated me to appeal to the Minister so that he may carry out investigations for the widening of this road through the town. The people are willing to have their houses pulled down for any reasonable compensation which Government may wish to pay.

The Minister has said that he has sent out somebody to make investigations, but since that time, about a year ago now, Sir, we have seen no trace, nor seen the appearance of anybody coming to the town and making enquiries, and calling upon people there to submit their estimates for compensation which Government will need to pay. I hope that the Minister will be up and doing—I know he is a very capable man—to harken to these calls of my people, and see that this road is widened at no distant date. I may mention that my people do not want a by-pass at the present time, although if it suits the Government a by-pass may be made at a later date.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr D. L. G. Olateju** (Oshun North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to praise the Minister for all he did with regard to the roads and bridge improvements, and at the same time to call his attention to the road mentioned, that is the Ilorin to Ajase road, whether the tarring of this

road will be extended to Ikirun, as the only road leading to Oshogbo tarred road. With these few remarks, I beg to take my seat.

**Mr. Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (South-West Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, it was not my intention to speak on this Head, because I spoke at length during the Speech from the Throne itself. I have now found it necessary to comment on the Minister's statement. Much as I appreciate his statement, I deeply regret to say that the number one international road, that is the Kano-Daura-Zinder road, was completely out of the picture.

Will the Minister please state whether there is any proposal, no matter when, for tarring this road?

**Mr L. A. Ning** (Wum): Sir, I rise to support the expenditure on this Head. Before doing so, I have to thank the Minister of Works for the visit paid to the Southern Cameroons last year, and to congratulate him on the progress on the Takum-Bissaula-Kameni road. I think, Sir, this Minister is one who really hears the cry of the hon. Members in this House about the rural areas. (Applause.) And, Sir, as this hon. House will know, this country is not blessed with water transport and other ways of transport all over. The Southern Cameroons is one place which has as its salvation for communication, only the road.

Sir, I would like to mention the question of tarring the Kumba-Mamfe road, and Bamenda-Mamfe road. I think, Sir, the progress is not encouraging. The rains will soon set in, and these roads will be worse for the vehicles. As this hon. House knows, the closure of these roads has happened every year, and now, as we move along, we see heaps of sand and soil put on the road, and very heavy layers of soil put on the road will make it dangerous to vehicles during the rainy season. I think, Sir, that the Minister of Works, should work on the P.W.D. to do some more speedy work on this road before the rains set in.

Sir, I think another point to talk about is the extension of the Trunk A roads. It was very encouraging to hear that this Government is prepared to extend the Trunk A road by 90 miles. Well, Sir, I think when this Government does that, this will relieve the Regional Governments from the heavy responsibility of Regional matters and community development.

Another point, Sir, about the construction of Trunk A roads. We are very grateful for the

construction of the Takum-Bissaula road. I think, Sir, if more roads are built in the Southern Cameroons then this Government is really thinking of the interests of the Southern Cameroons.

And I would appeal to the Minister of Works to consider if it is possible to open another road from Bebabefan in Wum Division, near the famous Menchem Falls, to Obudu in Ogoja Province. I think when this is done, Sir, it will help to open up many areas in the Southern Cameroons which are blessed with rice, palm and other products of economy.

Then, Sir, I think the Minister of Works will do us a world of good to visit the Southern Cameroons as often as possible. It is only then, Sir, that he can know the real difficulties of the Southern Cameroons by seeing with his eyes.

With these few words, I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West) rose in his place and claimed, That the Question be now put.

**The Chairman**: The debate has gone on for a long time; there are other things within the programme of the same Minister, so I accept the closure and the question is, That the question be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

*Sitting suspended for fifteen minutes.*

*Sitting resumed.*

#### HEAD 68—PUBLIC WORKS

*Question proposed, That the sum of £999,190 for Head 68—Public Works—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr L. O. Tobun** (Epe): Listening to the explanation of the hon. the Minister of Works under Head 67, I was impressed in the way he explained to the House all the activities within the year in his Ministry and this explanation has changed my mind completely and I am satisfied that he is a Minister who has been trying to do his best. For this reason, I will congratulate the Minister instead of criticising his Department. (Hear, hear.) But he said certain things in his explanation, that he would not like to dabble on award of contracts for certain personal reasons. I would ask him kindly to

dabble now on the award of contracts. He should try to make it a policy that anybody who is responsible for the award of contracts will be conscious of his position as a contract officer that anybody who registers as a contractor, be he a foreign firm or an African contractor, should be given fair treatment. And the Minister himself should make it his duty to look into all these things so that we do not come here any other time to begin to criticise the Public Works Department.

For this reason, I do not move.

**The Chairman**: There is another amendment on the Order Paper in the name of Mr Offor (he is not in his seat)—Chief Solaru; yes, do you move?

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Yes, Sir, I rise to move to reduce this Head by £10. Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to move this amendment, I do not wish it to be regarded by the Minister as a reflection upon his ability, but rather something to galvanise him to look into the working of the Department that I wish to spotlight. In the Public Accounts Committee, the accounts of the P.W.D. often come before us and we find that from time to time the stores at Ijora have been in a most confused state. Stores were constantly being written off and yet when we look into this Estimate which we are asked to pass now, we find—what was the word the other day? Was it a "battalion" or a "battery"? It was supplied from the Government Bench. Call it what you may, a battery of Storekeepers or anything—they go by different titles—but I suppose all they do is to keep the stores. But whether they do keep the stores is the point in question.

Sir, on Head 68, sub-head 64, all the items on that sub-head is "stores." Chief Stores Officer, Deputy Chief Stores Officer, Senior Stores Officer and the rest of them until you go on and you are out of breadth; still stores, stores, stores. And not only that, their numbers too. Well, apart from the few people on top who are about thirty-five, you have other twenty-one Storekeepers, you have forty-two Stores Assistants, you have fifty-two Stores Attendants and fifty-two Storemen. And yet with all this battery of Storekeepers, their stores are still in a confused state. We want to know why.

Surely, if the Ministry talks about shortage of staff, it couldn't be in this Department unless of course he means the reverse by which

we mean "too many cooks spoiling the broth". Are there too many Storekeepers or are there redundant Storekeepers who go by that name and draw the pay? There is a suspicion that something like that must be happening because here, Sir, in this Stores Department there are two new posts. There are two Deputy Stores Officers drawing £2,430 and there are higher Stores Officers as I have mentioned. Now, whether these promotions are merely to give more pay or to give more responsibilities to stop these leakages and wastages, we would like to have an assurance from the Minister.

What is the explanation? We cannot just come here and vote all this money for this Head, which totals up to almost £100,000. We cannot vote all that money merely to have a battery of Storekeepers who do not keep stores, or who merely draw a fat salary for doing nothing, or, as my good Friend the hon. Ojukwu would say, merely to make tea, drink tea, smoke cigars and then go home to drink more tea. We have a suspicion that in this Department there are mostly redundant officers who are sitting on top of the others. I will give you an instance, Sir. I found that in this Department at Ijora that the real people who keep the stores are the Junior Officers on a salary of £114-150 per annum. Now why is it that they are not the substantive holders of these higher posts? The man who is responsible for the property and any loss which might occur in the Store, should surely be the holder of the post, and not the man who merely says "I hope the stores are all right?" and receives an answer "Oh, yes, they are all right", and then he departs. When anything is found to be missing it is the Junior people who are held responsible. If that is not the truth, the Minister is here to tell us the truth.

Now what are the Senior and Chief Storekeepers doing? What are they keeping for us? I am told that the value of the stores that these Junior people look after, often amounts to £17,000. Well I praise the integrity and honesty of these boys who are put in charge of such valuable stores, especially in view of the fact that they only receive such a mere pittance of £114 odd per annum. I do not see this type of thing done in business houses. If a man's responsibility increases then his pay should increase with it. But just because a lot of these Chief Storekeepers and higher officers whose category allows them to draw a fat salary, the responsibility is shifted—well I

would call this storekeeping by proxy. We cannot afford them in the Public Works Department.

Now to turn to the Daily Paid Workers. There does not seem to be enough work for those who are already on the permanent establishment, and yet a great number of Daily Paid Workers are employed in store-keeping, stores-attending or stores-assisting, and it therefore seems to me that a great deal of confusion exists in this Department. I think if we are to follow the spirit of the speech from the Throne, and the speech of the hon. Financial Secretary that economy must be exercised, we have to start with this Department, where a lot of money is being wasted. Is there an Officer in that Department who does not keep stores? I have a suspicion that there is.

If you look closely you will find that the point is that it is not that there are not enough Officers, but they are not given enough work to do. I have been informed that the Storekeepers at Ijora do not keep the usual hours, that is, they have their own hours. Well I am not quarrelling with that, if the exigency of a person's work makes it necessary for him to work longer hours, well good luck to him, let him bend his back to it, but it must be the same right through. For instance, Sir, there are some of the staff who arrive in the morning at 7 o'clock or 7.30 and do not go home in the afternoons until 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock: they do not go home, there is no anteen, they have to buy their food wherever they can get it—like goats they nibble blades of grass I suppose—but other Officers can make tea, drink tea, jump into their cars, go up and down, collect travelling expenses and so on. This is the sort of thing that gets one's goat, and the Minister should look into it and see that such waste in this respect is eliminated in this Department.

Sir, out of all these higher posts, what is here so important about this job of store-keeping that some of the Junior people cannot be promoted to them? If they can be held responsible for £17,000 worth of goods, for which work they receive only £114 per annum, and not many of them are hauled to court (dishonesty), well then it seems to me that good many of them must be fit for promotion to the higher grades of storekeeping.

I will not say much more on this point, because I know others are coming after me, but I have not time to spotlight the other Departments, but I took the trouble to look into this Storekeeping. I am quite sure that if hon. Members look very closely at the next report of the Public Accounts Committee and find any losses that may have occurred then they should make it their duty to see that somebody is charged. The Minister says he is not responsible. The word "responsible" is becoming too flexible in this House. If Ministers are not responsible for what is done in their Departments—not responsible for promotions, not responsible for contracts—well what are they responsible for? For trimming their beards, and laughing? (*Laughter*). This is not the time for laughter, this is the time to get down to work and see to it that the necessary promotions are made where they ought to be.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the amendment.

*Amendment proposed, That Head 68—Public Works—be reduced by £10.*

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket): Mr Chairman, whilst associating myself with the encomiums that this House has been pouring on this Minister, I wish to make three brief observations.

The first is that the Minister of Works has told us that contracts are being arranged in categories, and that Africans are registered in category A. But he failed to tell us whether the category that Africans are in, that is category A, is the category for which most of the contracts are given out.

Secondly, I noticed that during the speech of one hon. Member in this House, some reference was made to Uya-Oron bridge in Eket Division, and I heard the hon. Minister asking which bridge was being referred to.

I am surprised: whether the hon. Minister meant that he had not heard the hon. Member, or that he had already lost sight of this bridge. If I assume that he meant that he had lost sight of this bridge, then I would remind the hon. Minister that two years ago in this House, the hon. Minister promised me that a survey team would be sent to survey that bridge with a view to reconstructing it to meet modern traffic requirements. Why I am surprised is that it looks as though I have to come here to this House every time we have a meeting

and raise this point for which attention has already been promised some two years ago.

The third point is that I am aware that our Government is not always afraid when it is asked for a ferry, but it is always afraid when it is asked for a bridge.

The other time a Motion came up in this House for another ferry on the Asaba-Onitsha crossing and I was not worried because I knew that the Government was going to accept that Motion so far as the Motion was dealing with a ferry.

There is a trunk 'A' road, the only trunk road which passes through Calabar, the headquarters of Calabar Province, and this is the road which links Calabar with the Cameroons. There is a need for a bridge across this road. The other time I brought this need to the notice of the Minister of Works that a bridge across the Atimbo River is the only thing that can satisfy all the Calabar people. The Calabar-Manife road cannot be complete minus a bridge across the Atimbo River. With this point, I support.

M. Ahmadu Rufai Daura (South East Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not support the Motion to reduce this item. I support what has been said in congratulation to the Minister of Works.

No doubt, he has done a lot of good work in many parts of the country, but he seems to have overlooked certain areas nearer home. I refer the Minister to the Birnin-Kudu-Kari section of the Kano Eastern road—Trunk Road A.21. I know it is unfair and wrong for Ministers of State to work on the lines of 'charity begins at home,' but it is equally wrong and unjust for them to neglect their home.

This road has been in an appalling condition for the last two years. It is deeply rutted and dotted with holes. There are many places where culverts should have been built long ago. The drainage is not being well kept and as a result of these deficiencies, sections of the road are flooded or washed away during the rains, even on the tarred Kano-Birnin Kudu section, causing delays and waste of time and money to travellers and transport owners. For when such floodings occur, as was the case in August last year between miles 62-65, lorries cannot pass either way. They have to stop at the ends of the damaged area while their passengers and loads are transferred, that is, passengers from the East have to walk across the area to lorries waiting at the Western end and *vice versa*.

There are small bridges between miles 52 and 60 that have the habit of breaking down alternately every year. I hope that the Minister will see to it that proper strong bridges are built at the places mentioned so that there will be no more breaking down.

I also hope that the embankments at the approaches to the bridge on the rivers and streams on that road, more especially on the Birnin-Kudu-Kari section, will be widened, or stopping places provided so that lorries may pass each other without the risk of falling down the embankment.

I have a letter written by a Member of the Northern House of Assembly who travelled on this road recently. The letter says: "Coming back from Kaduna the other day I had occasion to visit Misau and the causeway or embankment at the Kari end of the road is in a shockingly dangerous condition. Just before I arrived a "Shell" tanker and trailer, mercifully empty, had overturned down the bank. This narrow causeway has one foot deep ruts in it and to my certain knowledge, no attempt has been made at any permanent repair for at least three years. Between Kari and Misau there is a diversion for a broken culvert on which no work appears to have taken place for over a month. On this stretch of road I saw two road gangs each consisting of about five men. They were engaged leisurely in clearing the drains at the side of the road between the causeway and Misau and tentatively hacking at tufts of short dry grass with a matchet. No work on the surface of the road at all. I have not had occasion to travel over the Misau-Birnin Kudu stretch, but I understand this is in a pretty poor state as well.

"Another point I would like to bring to your notice is that there is no sign-post at Kari, a right-angled bend from the Potiskum-Bauchi road, to show that this is the turning to Kano, nor is there any indication of the left-hand bend at Misau to put the traveller on the Kano Eastern road. This road is part of the international highway between South and North Africa and I am constantly having to warn travellers of the fact that there are no sign-posts and to direct them on the right road. Recent arrivals from outside Nigeria are of the opinion that the Kari-Birnin Kudu stretch rivals any other bad stretch on the international highway."

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): This is not a letter; it is a speech.



sub-head 24, a new provision is made for one Assistant Superintendent of Overseas Communications. There had already been the Superintendent, now we want an Assistant Superintendent. In my view, it is likely that that one will become a real decoding officer. It is a new appointment. What will it be? Would it be filled by an expatriate officer?

I would like the Chief Secretary to give us an assurance who will fill that particular post.

It is a new one and I presume nobody has filled it yet. Is this officer the person to perform all the duties of a Duty Officer now? If so, we have no objection but we would like to see this particular post for which a new provision is made filled by a Nigerian.

And all the Typists in this particular section, too. It may surprise some Members that whenever the word "clerk" is used, generally it refers in this country to Nigerians. But when you see the word "clerk" in the Council of Ministers, it refers to expatriate officers. And you will see something significant, that the salary of a clerk has a limit. In this particular instance, if you work it out, it will be obvious to you that all the persons referred to here as Confidential Clerks are expatriate officers. Why is that the case? When would there be a change in this particular category and how far are our Ministers going to continue to stick to this particular kind of treatment?

Now, I mentioned the high office of the Secretary to the Governor-General and the Council of Ministers. It is an important office. That of his Deputy too is very important. I would like the hon. the Chief Secretary to throw some light on the type of duties performed by this Secretary. What does he do? Does he sit in his office to receive drafts of memoranda prepared by Ministers and Permanent Secretaries or does he do any more than that? Does he just correct the grammatical errors if any? Does he discover any error in it and send it back to the Ministry or does he just sit down as the big schoolmaster before whom all Ministers must continue to tremble? If he finds any fault with the memoranda will he summon the Minister of Labour and ask him to explain why he has had the courage to put in this draft? And I can imagine the picture of a trembling Minister of Labour fluttering like a piece of leaf in an autumnal gale! What does he do?

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I take exception to the expression of the Leader of the Opposition; I never tremble before anybody. (Cheers)

**Chief Akintola**: Well, I think this is an important consolation. He does not tremble before anybody. And you will notice that his statement is more or less a corroboration of my allegation. It is true he is always called upon, always commanded to stand before the Secretary, but when he stands there he does not tremble. Why is he called there at all?

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare**: I am protesting again, Sir, against this..... (Interruptions)

**Chief Akintola**: I refuse to yield. I am not yielding, Sir.

**The Chairman**: Order, order. Chief Akintola does not give way.

**Chief Akintola**: Well, I am quite sure that the Minister of Labour will appreciate the fact that I merely used him as an illustration.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare**: It is a bad illustration; I don't stand before any Secretary at all. (Hear, hear)

**Chief Akintola**: Well, I would like the hon. the Chief Secretary to tell us precisely what happens. Whenever any memorandum is prepared, when the draft is submitted to the Secretary's Office, what particular function does he perform? What are his duties in relation to those? Will he sit down and call for files from other Departments and prepare a fresh memorandum or what does he do? We would like to know. Or does he merely superintend the preparation of minutes of the Council of Ministers, or what is his real function? We would like to know and be informed.

Now, the next point, Sir, is on page 153, sub-head 5—Expenses of Ministers travelling on official business overseas—£10,000. Well, I have no objection at all to provision being made for Ministers to travel abroad but the hon. the Chief Secretary owes this House an obligation in one particular respect. In the past, this House exercised some control through its Finance Committee. And that is, if a Minister wanted to travel, the reason for the travel would be given to the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee would

examine to see that it is not for a frivolous purpose, and on every occasion in the past the Committee has always agreed. But I am afraid under the present provision, the Finance Committee is taken out completely and now a bulk provision is being made so that a Minister can dip his hand into the purse any time whether the cause of the travel is justified or not.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): They are responsible people, my friend.

**Chief Akintola**: After all, the Finance Committee is the Finance Committee of this House and the majority of the members are members from the Government Bench, and it is necessary for you to continue to exercise some control. I know the Ministers are responsible people but the control of this House is still absolutely necessary. If this money is voted, I would ask for an assurance that not a penny of it should be used unless explanation is first given to your Finance Committee. If the Finance Committee is satisfied, of course every penny of it may be spent, and perhaps much more than is being provided for here should also be spent. But we can never exercise too much control over our money. It is necessary to exercise a little bit of control in order to ensure that maximum benefit accrues from the Vote that we are making in this hon. House.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Centre): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to item 15 here—Telephone Attendants. The scale is G.1A, 2. I am appealing to the Council of Ministers that these Operators should be graded if not as the Operators in the P. and T., at least they should get something higher than this salary. This salary is just the salary of an ordinary Messenger, even below that. Even Special Labour earns more than this G.1A, 2. After all, Operators are partly technicians and I think it is high time the Council of Ministers should do something to change this present grading.

What I would like to refer to, Sir, is what the Leader of the Opposition has just said, and a statement that I don't like. He is trying to impute bad motives. The Ministers must be responsible people, and we must attribute to them a certain degree of integrity and trust. We make a man a Minister of State, and he therefore must be a man of integrity, but there are some people who are inferring that when these Ministers go overseas they

travel merely to waste time and money. If we are thinking in terms of self-government, then it is high time that we started to show a sense of responsibility. These types of statements are very bad. The Ministers are responsible people and are not in office to waste either their time or the time of the country.. (Applause).

**Chief E. O. Omolodun** (Oyo South): Mr Chairman, I have only a very simple quarrel with the Council of Ministers. I wonder whether our Ministers apply the broadest sense of the word "Minister" to their status. I say this because there seems to be a "House Master" in the room over our Ministers. We trust them to a certain extent, but they have given us no assurance that they are not under anybody other than this honourable House. The other day one hon. Member said here that somebody went to an office of one of the Ministers, collected a file, and asked that the Minister should come and see him in his office. I think it was hon. Akande, or somebody like that who said that.. (An hon. Member: It was said by Mr Akwivu.).. but he did not have the courage to mention that man's name.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu** (Awka): It was the Chief Secretary; don't be afraid.

**Chief Omolodun**: Well, he never told us that. That is why I say there seems to be a "House Master" over our Ministers. He didn't mention any name, but now it seems it was the Chief Secretary to the Government, and if that be the case, we are now assuring the Ministers that we are behind them. If they have any difficulty at all, they should have the courage to report it to us, and this difficulty will be removed immediately by our votes.

**Chief S. L. Akintola**: Cowardly Akwivu is here.

**Chief Omolodun**: Yes, but he didn't mention the name. Mr Chairman, these posts mentioned by the hon. Leader of the Opposition should be filled by Nigerians as far as possible. Any recurrence of this trouble will not be welcomed next year.

**The Minister of Transport** (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, I rise to say a word or two on these allegations which have been made by some Members of the House about the Ministers' relationship with officials. I want to tell the House, Sir, and in very clear terms, that we Ministers are not under the influence of officials at all. (Applause)

and, Sir, for a Member of the House to stand up and say that an official went to a Ministry and asked to see the Minister, and when he couldn't see the Minister he asked for files and then took them away and asked that the Minister should see him in his office, I think it is very unbecoming even of a Member of this honourable House. After all, Sir, any Minister who behaves in this way does not deserve to be a Minister. (*Applause*).

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East)**: I only want to correct an impression made by the hon. Adeyinka, and comments made on Sub-head 5. Well, if in 1955-56 the Estimates provided for £1,454 and this year we suddenly find £10,000, surely as representatives of the people we have every right to say this is unusual. Ministers have travelled in previous years and that travelling has been by arrangement with the Finance Committee, and if we are asked to approve a block vote like this, surely we have every right to say we hope the money has been well spent. That does not, however, impute any insincere motives on the part of anybody. We, as representatives of the people have every right to question every item and say: "Why is that that; why has that increase been made, what is that money being spent on?" and so on, without being accused of imputing motives. I wish to say that was the intention of these remarks, however anybody else likes to interpret it. Everybody comes here with a due sense of responsibility, and we therefore should not impute motives to anybody in this House.

Sir, under this Head, the Council of Ministers, I am very glad that our able Minister of Transport got up to defend the entire team of the Council, that they are not under the influence of any official whatsoever.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West)**: He did so after consultation with the Chief Secretary...

**Hon. Members**: No. No.

**Chief Solaru**: Again, without detracting a jot from what he has said, I would respectfully submit to him that what we object to is not the influence of the Officials—you can't get away from that if you are to have advisers. They will influence your decision to a certain extent, your Permanent Secretaries who pass you drafts, people who are more knowledgeable in certain fields than you are—but what we don't like is influence that will derogate from the dignity of Ministers, and nobody will quarrel with that reason.

After all, how did anybody know about this file being passed. We were not there. Somebody else must have complained to Akwivu otherwise how did he get hold of the information? It is that person who has complained to whom you should direct the thunder of your anger.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West)**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I was going to say that it was a farrago of nonsensical effusion for any Member to say that our Ministers are under the Chief Secretary and furthermore, I want to say that it is ridiculous for any hon. Member to say that our Ministers are influenced in any way by the expatriate officials in this country.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

£66,150 for Head 72—Council of Ministers—*agreed to.*

#### HEAD 73—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Question proposed, That the sum of £253,370 for Head 73—House of Representatives—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka)**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move to reduce sub-head 1 by £10.

Now, I just want to call the attention of the House, and particularly the Chief Secretary, to the conditions under which the workers in this House suffer. They work under very difficult conditions without any hope of reward and promotion. Some of them were drawn from other Departments only to come here and mark time all the while.

I take the case of Verbatim Reporters. Year in, year out, Members complain of not giving them adequate salaries, and after the Gorsuch Revision, when one expected their salary ascending, it descended. Before the Gorsuch Salaries Revision the salary of Verbatim Reporters was £570 initial, now it was reduced to £564 as a result of Randell Report. That is wonderful.

Now, we have been praying here that we have not enough men to do the work of Verbatim Reporters, so that we should do everything possible to see that they are encouraged, and we are given more and more expatriates to do the work which our Nigerian girls could

do. Nigerian girls are not forthcoming and instead of encouraging those in the Service, whether men or women, we go a long way to discourage them so that none would be forthcoming in the future.

I would call the attention of the Chief Secretary to surrender this work to the Speaker of the House who knows those who work well and those who do not work well. If he says that the Verbatim Reporters are doing their work he should then ask for their promotion. Now, I would not like the workers in this House to be attached to the Secretariat and therefore to the Chief Secretary. That should be a different Head altogether under the Speaker of the House.

Most of them have gone to the House of Commons to learn the practice in the House of Commons but when they return here they would not be given the chance of putting the result of their experience into practical operation. I would not like that to be repeated.

I see that African Verbatim Reporters are doing marvellously well but they are not being encouraged enough. Well, we cry every day to get more Verbatim Reporters—I know last year when the Speaker made mention several times appealing to Members to help to bring those who could do the work because the people here were suffering under intense difficulty—we should do everything to encourage those who are doing the work on the spot to see that they are retained and other people, seeing their conditions improved, would join to help to do the work. (*Applause*).

Now, I would not like Members every year appealing to the Chief Secretary to promote those that are good. All the African members of that Department are doing their work well. It is in the case of the expatriates that you get some not doing well just because they do not understand us the way we speak. If it is that they are not capable I would question the integrity of those who employed them. I might say that it is because they do not understand the way we speak, but those who understand the way we speak, whether they have the same qualification or not, if they do the work well, I do not see any reason why they should be required to pass 120 words per minute.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu West)**: The way you speak is more than 140 words per minute.

**Mr Mbakogu**: After that I would also appeal to the Chief Secretary to see that the members here of other classes of workers in the House have opportunities of promotion. We have every year the offices of two Assistant Chief Clerks. Whom are they assisting? I do not see any Chief Clerk there. Not one of them is being promoted. They were brought from their other Departments to this place but they have no hope of being promoted to any other job. One of them should be made the Chief Clerk and the other one to assist him as Assistant Chief Clerk.

Now, we have also the case of Telephone Attendants which had been mentioned. These people were formerly in the P. & T. They were brought here. After the Gorsuch Revision their counterparts in the P. & T. went up while they went down. I would not like that to repeat. Since they have the same standard of efficiency they should be made to earn the same salary so as not to discourage them. Otherwise if their services are not needed here they should be sent away and not waste their time here without any hope of promotion.

The same thing can be said of Messengers and Clerical Assistants. They are not happy here. We would like to see them always sharp so that we will get maximum service from them during the sessions of this House. (*Applause*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey)**: Mr Chairman, I rather hope, Sir, that I have already done what the hon. Gentleman asked that I should do. I do not control staff in this House but I think, Sir, that you in your capacity as the Speaker of the House do. But what I do have to do is, as there must be somebody on the Ministerial Benches who can answer for these matters even if they are not under the control of that person, it is my responsibility to answer questions in the House about the Legislature.

**The Chairman**: I am so sorry to interrupt you, Chief Secretary. I have got again to propose the question on the Amendment.

*Question proposed.*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation**: My only purpose in rising, Mr Chairman, is to inform the House that the difficulty over getting the right status for people who prove

that they have the ability to act as Verbatim Reporters is not one that is being neglected. The House will remember that in dealing last year with the Conclusions of the Government on the Report of the Grading Teams, it approved the Recommendation that officers of the Secretary-Stenographer and Verbatim Reporter class should not be allowed to act in a higher post requiring qualifications in shorthand and typing which they do not possess. So that that is the Government principle: a person cannot be a Verbatim Reporter unless he or she has passed an appropriate test.

Now, hitherto, the appropriate test in addition to certain basic educational qualifications has been the passing of an examination set by the Royal Society of Arts. It has been the complaint locally that there are people here who are well able to take down a report at a certain speed when, as the hon. Gentleman has said, what is said is said by Nigerians in Nigerian circumstances, but that these people are not always able to pass the Royal Society of Arts examination.

We hope to remedy that because the Training Section in the Nigerianisation Office proposes to devise a syllabus for an examination and try to conduct that examination locally and if we can get a satisfactory standard agreed, acceptable to everybody—including you, Sir, the Speaker of this House—we can dispense with the Royal Society of Arts qualification for local candidates. And if they pass the local examination they will be promoted to the post of Verbatim Reporter.

**Mr A. J. U. Ekong (Uyo):** I do not rise to support the amendment but I am standing to pay tribute on behalf of this side of the House to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. I think if we had a bad Speaker to begin with we would see the real value of the present Speaker we are having, and I think I am right in saying that we owe the success of the work of this House entirely to the good fortune we have had in having the present Speaker of this House (*Applause*).

I would crave the indulgence of the Chairman however, to make a few comments particularly from what I have seen as I now stay in one of the House of Representatives' flats. Those of us who are there will notice that it is mainly the boys from Calabar Province who work as labourers there helping to maintain the flats

and clean the furniture there. I would not like to think that when we are talking so much of Nigerianisation we are going to keep a particular section of the Federation to act as hewers of wood and drawers of water.

**The Chairman:** I think Mr Ekong will do better to make this speech when we come to the next amendment in the names of Mallam Nughu Bamalli and Mallam Ladan Fari.

**Mr Ekong:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, I hope you will call me again when we come to that. With that understanding I will oppose the amendment and finish up by repeating my praise and appreciation of the work of the Speaker of the House.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, with due deference to the statement of the Chief Secretary we need to be convinced that this House is independent of the Chief Secretary. We want to be convinced practically that the Clerk of the House is the head of the different department, and that he is only subject to the ruling of the Speaker. We would like to see that in practice. He went to the House of Commons to study procedure, his assistant went there and studied these things. We have a Speaker. We will be very happy to know that this is now a different department not controlled from the Chief Secretary's Office. But from our own experience and observation this House is very much under the thumb of the Chief Secretary.

I want to point out one very serious anomaly and I would like to believe what the Chief Secretary said. When Gorsuch reported the Verbatim Reporters of this House were graded as Technicians but when Mr Randell came he downgraded them and put them in Executive. The result is that they are worse off to-day than they were when Gorsuch reported. I hope, as the Chief Secretary has told us, that this House is after all under the Speaker, and I am perfectly certain that if that is correct the Speaker will not hesitate to see to it that this anomaly is corrected after the House has risen. So I look forward to the rectification of the position of these Verbatim Reporters who have been doing a very difficult piece of work and then to their detriment finding themselves being reduced in status. When one grading officer finishes his work and another one reduces them, that is a bad thing. I am sure this House will support any measure that is taken to improve their condition.

A Member has said here that we have two Assistant Chief Clerks. Surely, Sir, if there are two Assistant Chief Clerks there must be provision for a Chief Clerk. Let there be hope that somebody being Assistant will one day become the Chief. Here there is no provision at all for a Chief Clerk. Those of us who visit the Pay Office know the responsibility that falls on the head of the paymaster. There was a clerk who was in there for a very short time. We know exactly what happened. Well this man had to handle thousands of pounds. His own colleagues in other departments had hopes of rising to something higher. If this post is created and a man goes up, the next in command will come and so on. I am sure this House will not hesitate to authorise the Finance Committee to approve the creation of such a post when the House is in recess.

There is a point which I think has now become my favourite subject. I am very much alarmed that every year we are being asked to vote only £400 for the Library of this House. This sum is very small. £400 for the Library of the House of Representatives! This cannot have any valuable book. This Library is very badly equipped. I sincerely hope that next time when provision is being made adequate provision will be made for more books to be purchased. There are some rare books and some valuable books from other countries, not only the United Kingdom, other countries, certain types of books that will help Members to learn procedure and constitutional provisions in other parts of the world. Sometimes we talk of Federal Constitution; you have not got a book there in the Library dealing with different constitutions of the world. Although in private life we could not find books of that nature, Members cannot familiarise themselves with the position.

There is this "Expenses of Members travelling on official business overseas." Perhaps it may be the fault of Members but it appears there is no attempt on the part of Members—I do not know who is responsible, Members are not making very much use of this particular provision. I would like to know whether there is any particular regulation other than attending the meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association whereby Members could be enabled to visit some other parts of the Commonwealth, particularly some of our people who have not had the opportunity for

one reason or another to go outside. I think there should be this provision when you have a delegation of two or three going outside to watch other Houses in session and see the practice and procedure elsewhere; that will help this House immensely (*Applause*).

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** My Motion was passed last year.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku:** Yes, but the Motion is still lying there. That is why I am trying to remind the Chief Secretary who said that he answers for this Department in this House. I am now asking him, as the person directly answering in this House, to report to the Speaker (he said the Speaker is now in charge of this section), that it is our wish that Members should be enabled to make very good use of this particular Head of expenditure. Mr Chairman has already said that there is an amendment in relation to the flats so I would not like to comment on that now.

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama (Central Zaria):** In opposing this Motion, I would like to say straight away that all sides of this House will note with happiness that, as a result of hon. Members' representations during the last Budget Session of the House, the Estimates shows an increase in the salary of our smart Sergeant-at-Arms. This gentleman, who performs his duties with that ease and smartness characteristic of Service or ex-Service-men, deserves this and future increases in his pay.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, I want to tell the House that I consider it unwise to under-pay those who handle money: not everybody is capable of handling thousands of pounds for a long period without any trouble. I am thinking of the Pay Clerk of this hon. House who, I understand—and I hope it is not correct—is not being paid what he is worth and is also paid below his proper grade. If this story is correct, I hope his salary will be improved. I am seriously appealing to the Government to do something about that and I am relying upon the Standing Committee on Finance not to refuse to approve any augmentation of this Head of expenditure.

I oppose the Motion.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, we are all fully grown up on this side of the House and there are fully grown up mosquitoes on that side of the

house. I speak now not only on behalf of Members on this side, but on behalf of all Members of the House, that we must congratulate the Speaker for the good work he has been doing here. (*Hear, hear*). The remuneration of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker should be increased.

I support the hon. Jaja Wachuku and the hon. Mr Mbakogu in all the remarks they have made on this Head. This is a Head dealing with all the heads of the hon. Members in this House and I have a petition from the drivers of the hon. Members that they themselves should be given better pay: they do not want £4-10s a month—they want more.

In order to make the Leader of the Opposition a bit more responsible, Sir, I pray that this House should increase his remuneration under this Head and also make provision for an office in this building for the Leader of the Opposition and the two Government Whips. This would give a lead to the Regional Houses to follow and would also, perhaps, make it easier for the Leader of the Opposition and the Whips to do their duty efficiently. The Whips' remuneration should also be increased.

Now, I agree with Members who have spoken—so long as they all treat their drivers well—and I move that the question be now put.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Point of order, Sir. There is one Amendment there—Amendment to Sub-head 8.

**The Chairman:** I think perhaps the reason for moving the closure was to get on to Sub-head 8.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Question, That Sub-head 1 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

**M. Nuhu Bamalli (Central Zaria):** Mr Chairman, it is not so much my wish that this item should be reduced, as to get an opportunity to air my views about the Department generally—I mean the House of Representatives.

Much has been said by previous speakers but I would still maintain, Sir, that to me, and, I think, to every hon. Member in this House, this is a most important Department insofar as our convenience whilst we are here in Lagos is concerned and on the shoulders of the Clerk of the House (who is the Head of the

Department) lies a heavy responsibility. But one would ask why are things going on as they are? Why is there so much frustration among the staff?—and this, I understand, does not end only with the junior staff: there is frustration even with the most senior staff under the Clerk.

Sir, it is not my intention to charge the Clerk or his staff with neglecting our interests; on the contrary, we know that everybody in this House, from the Clerk down to the humblest cleaner, is doing his best to see that we are happy when we are here in Lagos and, in this regard, Sir, even the Housing Manager, whose Head I am moving to reduce, is not an exception.

But we feel that things are not going correctly. We feel that the hands of the Clerk seem to be tied and he would do more to meet our needs if he were allowed a free hand over his Department.

Every year we come here we see the same thing. There is inconvenience at Ikoyi in the flats. After the promises we were given last year, I expected to see a change, but when the invitation came to me to come to this meeting, I was surprised to learn that I was to prepare to live with two other Members in the same flat. And when I came, Sir, I found my bed put in the sitting room. I did not even get a bedroom. Sir, it is a very serious matter. We are subjected to a most degrading humiliation as honourable Members. There is practically no water in these flats and some of us have to come to the House in order to visit the lavatory.

We know, Sir, it is not the fault of the Housing Manager. After all he is an official, and he can only use what is put at his disposal. We know also that it is not the fault of the Clerk either, because his hands too are tied, and he has to go down on his knees to beg for this and for that and for everything the Department needs. Why this should be so, we cannot tell. We thought that the Clerk, being the Head of the Department should be allowed a free hand over all the affairs of his Department. I understand this is not so.

Sir, we realise we are fortunate to have you as the Speaker of this House. Would it not be advisable for the Speaker to be allowed an opportunity of going into the matters affecting the House? He has had abundant

experience at Westminster, and that experience can be used in guiding our Clerk to manage this Legislature better.

Sir, and hon. Members, I will strike this note of warning. We are agitating every day, every hour, every minute, for Nigerianisation. Well I warn all lovers of this country in this House and out of this House, to be on the lookout against bogus Nigerianisation. If this is the sort of Nigerianisation we are going to have, where Nigerians are given the office, perhaps they are given the salary, but they are denied the freedom to use their own initiative to run their own Department, then Nigerianisation is a farce.

**Mr A. J. U. Ekong (Uyo):** Mr Chairman Sir, I wish to support the Amendment that Sub-head 8 be reduced by £5. I am so happy that the hon. Member who made the Amendment has stressed the importance of the sort of work that is done at Ikoyi for the comfort of Members attending the Meetings in Lagos.

As I was saying before, if we look round there at Ikoyi we will find that most of the junior officers working there are from Calabar Province. I like Nigerianisation very much, and my only hope and prayer is, that there should be no attempt to keep any section of this country to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. By that I do not mean to say that it is bad to have them occupied in this way, but it is definitely bad to have employed them under the conditions in which they are now working. Most of them are receiving a salary of not more than £7, some of them below £7, and it is definitely a mistake that in a Department where the Housing Manager has a salary of about £660, it should be found impossible to have at least two people next to him having something reasonable.

I am therefore appealing, Sir, to whoever is responsible for this to consider the advisability of grading posts there, so that we have some of these boys serving as furniture clerks and so on, given something that will encourage them to give their best to this Federation.

I would like, Sir, to associate myself with the hon. Member who made the Amendment in saying that we are not having the comfort we would expect there in Ikoyi, particularly those of us who eat at the mess. One always knows what one is going to eat at the table; it is always potatoes and beans. And we pay

exactly the same amount of money that we ought to have paid in any good hotel here in Lagos. I would therefore like to point out, Sir, that there is no reason why steps should not be taken to serve proper meals to the Members who go to the mess to eat. I am very serious about this. For a person to come and stay here for about a month or more, living on only one type of meal is definitely bad, and something must be done about it, so that we have a variety of meals served to us in the mess.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Nigerianisation of meals.

**Mr Ekong:** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Works (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to speak on the Amendment moved by the honourable M. Nuhu Bamalli and that is about the accommodation for hon. Members at Ikoyi. Some time ago, Sir, I had a meeting with the Housing Committee of this honourable House and I showed them plans and sketches of some accommodation we are going to provide for Members. The Committee had studied the plans and sketches and approved them and given me the O.K. to go ahead with the work.

We are, Sir, going to provide 54 quarters, 54 quarters for boys, and 54 garages, and we hope when we do this the congestion which no doubt Members suffer now at Ikoyi, will certainly be removed. We all realise that Members are living at a great disadvantage, and we are doing all we can and we hope by this time next year, when Members come back there will be proper accommodation.

**Several hon. Members:** Not before next year?

**The Minister of Works:** I am sorry I must be very frank with hon. Members. If I say you are going to get these quarters by August, and you don't get them you will be at my throat.

On the question of water, Sir, I am afraid here some sort of mistake was made right from the beginning when the flats were built. At the top of each flat there is a tank. That tank gets full of water and all the flats below it draw their supply from it. Well the unfortunate thing is that these flats are not connected with the mains, they are only connected with the

tanks above. Now that is being remedied. The flats are being connected now both with the tanks above and with the mains supplying the area. It is hoped that this will be the end of the inconvenience which hon. Members are suffering by having to come here for private business. We hope that this will not happen again.

**Chief V. Duro Phillips (Ijebu West)**: Mr Chairman, Sir, the explanation given to the House by the hon. Minister of Works, though attractive, is not convincing.

I rise wholeheartedly to support the amendment proposed by my Friend the hon. Nuhu Bamalli. What we are talking about is not our future welfare as Members of this House; we are speaking of the immediate welfare of ours. It is a well-known fact that most of us do not hail from Lagos, like my friend the hon. Mr Benson, and hon. Mr Dosunmu, and as such, Sir, it is purely impossible for us to carry our houses from the Provinces to Lagos. If it were possible, I would carry a number of houses to Lagos, and have the real convenience that is due to me. Yes. But, Sir, this is a matter of serious importance and what do we find, Sir, in Ikoyi? For instance, we are particularly grateful to the Clerk of the House for making every possible effort to see that most of the Members who apply for flats are accommodated in the flats. Secondly, those who are accommodated in the flats are accommodated in groups of two, three, four sometimes. In some instances Members are accompanied to Lagos by their wives. All the people in the flats have to make use of the same kitchen, the same stove, and privacy is altogether absent.

Sir, further to that, furnishings in many of these flats are overdue for replacement. All the cushions are useless; many of the mattresses are no more good. Even the beds themselves are antiquated, they are old, dilapidated, and they are creaking.

Now, Sir, in many of these flats, ordinary drinking glasses are not available. In the flat where I live, four of us are there—two hon. Members and two wives; we were supplied with only three glasses. As such, we have to queue to have our meals, because glasses are not available, and on a message to the Housing Manager, he regretted that he had made the best use of the supplies that were given to him. Even the floors are not polished. Floor

polish is not available at the Housing Manager's office, and not only that, Sir, the vicinity of the garden, both at the front and the back of all the flats, is unkempt. They are not swept and, Sir, I have seen one or two instances where the Housing Manager himself has to come down to the garden and sweep the gardens himself, even though it is not his duty. With the House Manager, we have no quarrel; he is suffering under great disability. What is the Clerk doing?

We are appealing to the Clerk to come over to Ikoyi himself and see the conditions under which we live, and to make recommendations to the proper quarters, as to immediate remedy. I, for myself, would not wish to come to Lagos next Session to live in the same conditions as I am living in now. Otherwise, I should have to go back to my constituency.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki)**: Mr Chairman, while I oppose the Amendment, there is something to be said for the sentiments expressed by the speaker. Actually, the conditions under which the hon. Members live here should be improved. I must say that when hon. Members here argue about certain points, they must argue as statesmen. The point raised by a Member from the Opposition, Mr Ekong, is very very disappointing indeed. He started saying that most of the people working there are people from Calabar Province. We are not after the sections of the people of this country, we are talking of Nigeria as a whole. He is introducing tribalism on the Floor of this House. I am not surprised he is an Action Grouper, and he started to say something about the Calabar Province, as if the Calabar Province is quite distinct from other Provinces that go to make up Nigeria.

Well, Sir, the last time during the Committee of Supply, last year, I really stressed the importance of the telephone operators in this House. As far as I can remember, I think the workers from the Posts and Telegraphs Department are most benefited due to the promotion recently given to the workers. The telephone operators here, I think, were transferred from the P. and T. into the House of Representatives. I feel that they should be given the same measures. If the workers in P. and T. get better conditions of service, why should these telephone operators here, who operate almost equal switchboards like those of P. and T. be neglected?

The same thing applies to other workers in the House of Representatives, mentioned by previous speakers. I feel that this is almost the heart of the Federation, and I say the heart, because it is here that Votes for all other Departments pass, and the workers in the House of Representatives are almost the veins through which this flow of blood goes to other sections, and it would be a pity if the people working in the House of Representatives are the people to grumble about their conditions of service.

I appeal to the Council of Ministers that they should think very seriously, and improve the conditions of service of all the workers in the House of Representatives.

**Mr T. O. S. 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.*

*Question, that Sub-head 8 be reduced by £5, put accordingly and negatived.*

*Question, That £253,370 for Head 73—House of Representatives—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

*Sitting suspended for a quarter of an hour. Sitting resumed.*

#### HEAD 74—ADMINISTRATION (LAGOS)

*Question proposed, That £14,680 for Head 74—Administration (Lagos)—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West)**: In this matter respecting Lagos, Sir, we feel that Members will do everything possible to remedy the condition of salaries in general.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 75—AUDIT

*Question proposed, That £52,460 for Head 75—Audit—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu West)**: Sir, the Director of Federal Audit has been doing yeoman service in putting the accounts of the various Departments in order and in conveying to them the observations of the Public Accounts Committee.

I must take this opportunity, Sir, to say to Ministers who are responsible for various Departments to exercise remote control over them and to tell them that wherever public funds of the Federation are concerned and wherever

it comes within the province of any Committee of this House to examine those points or to comment on them, that the Public Accounts Department would not like to be treated with contempt in the way Reports are drawn up and in the way questions are answered.

Sir, if I had been prepared, I should have quoted instances, with the permission of the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, of where we have failed to get satisfaction, but I think our observations are contained in our Minutes. What we would not like to happen is that the genuine directions and efforts of the Director of Federal Audit to get things remedied should be flouted. Circulars are passed round and are merely pigeon-holed; it doesn't matter how many times circulars are passed round, they know that nobody will be bothering until next year. Well, this is the body to watch over the funds of the Federation and they do it through their Public Accounts Committee and we rely very largely upon the commendable efforts of the Director of Federal Audit and we would wish that every word from his pen should be taken note of by the Heads of various Departments.

Sir, I beg to support.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation (Mr F. D. C. Williams)**: I would just like to say, Sir, that I share entirely the views of the hon. Member that the Public Accounts Committee is the key control of this House and everything that it says must be thoroughly followed up by the Government organs responsible. Before this House met, I submitted to the Clerk of the House a long memorandum setting out the action taken on the last report of the Public Accounts Committee and that will come before the Committee when it next meets.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East)**: As a matter of fact, Sir, I submitted, rather too late, an amendment to this Head and particularly in connection with sub-head 1, Item 3—the new provision for Assistant Director of Federal Audit.

Mr Chairman, this Department, without mincing words, is the most fastidious Department in pursuing the Nigerianisation policy and I shall endeavour towards the end of my speech to satisfy you, Sir, that there is a calculated attempt by the Department to frustrate the ambitions of our people. I happened to be in the Audit Department myself for some years.

Mr Chairman, you notice that there is an attempt by the Department to create the new post of Assistant Director of Federal Audit. At the same time, the Head of Department is seeing to it that he reduced the establishment of Principal Auditors by one. The effect of that is, Sir, that he is going to block the chances of the only African who is close to that post. There were originally three posts of Principal Auditors; one is transferred to the Central Office in England, the other one possibly is earmarked for promotion to the newly created post. That would have left room for two Principal Auditors but by the new arrangement, that is by the provision of one Assistant Director of Federal Audit, the Director is suppressing one post which the African who is next can naturally aspire to.

If you have a look at the Estimates, Sir, you have the Director himself who is an expatriate, the Deputy is an expatriate, there are three Principal Auditors who are all expatriates. The only African close to them is on the grade of Senior Auditor. So he has four steps, four ladders to mount before he can reach the grade of Head of Department. By this skilful manoeuvre, what the Director is doing is not to reduce the ladder but to lengthen it by one. Originally, there was no such post of Assistant Director. He now wants to put it in. The effect is that the African, instead of having four ladders to mount in order to reach the highest grades, has now to mount five ladders. I mean, it is reduced almost to nonsense if we come here and insist that Nigerianisation should be the policy and by this skilful manner officers who are responsible can make it difficult for our men. The Nigerian officer on the high grade there is the Senior Auditor. He happens to be the most senior and he was acting for the Principal Auditors whenever one of them went on leave. When it was being observed, Sir, that it is likely that this gentleman establishes a claim for promotion, the Department went so far as Mauritius in order to bring one other European officer on top of him. So the effect of that is, Sir, that it will not be possible for this African gentleman to act in the senior post when the senior post is vacant. Not only that; if there are chances of promotion, it is unlikely for him again to be promoted. It is just frustrating when things like this happen. By one stroke, they make it impossible for this senior African to act in a

higher office and by the same stroke they make it difficult for him to reach the highest grade in the Department.

As I said, Sir, I originally put in an amendment to delete the new post of Assistant Director but unfortunately it didn't comply with the Standing Orders. So I am only taking this opportunity to say that this is a clear case of deliberate effort to make it impossible for this African to get on in the Civil Service.

If you look at the memorandum which explains the reason for this new provision, you will find, Sir, that it is insufficient to justify the creation of such a new post. If it is considered, Sir, that it is essential that the Principal Auditor should be in charge of the revenue and stores branch, then there is a stronger argument that a Principal Assistant Auditor should also be in charge of expenditure. But what the Director is doing is suppressing one post which the African can legitimately aspire to and then he creates a new and higher post for the expatriate.

Well, I remember when we were discussing the case of the Administrator-General, it was pointed out, Sir, that if we were to press this House to delete the new provision of Deputy Administrator-General, we are doing our people harm. If I can have the assurance of the Financial Secretary that in pursuance of the Nigerianisation policy he is prepared to fill this new post of Assistant Director with an African, I shall be content. Otherwise, it will be very revolting. It was said in one breath that the Council of Ministers have no hand in filling of posts. Surely, if this House means anything at all, it means we have the right to exercise our powers in providing or not providing new posts. I am very certain that if a matter like this had been brought before our Finance Committee, it would have been opposed.

If you look further, Sir, there is an attempt to make additional provision under the grade of Senior Auditors. Nine chances out of ten it is not likely to be filled by an African. So you have the position where the Department is not only creating a new post of Assistant Director, it is even increasing the establishment of Senior Auditors by one, all to be filled by expatriates and there are many and many African Auditors there with considerable experience who are capable of holding these posts.

If the Financial Secretary can assure this House that if he cannot fill the post of Deputy Assistant Director with a Nigerian, he will give an assurance that the post of Senior Auditor will be filled by an African, I shall be content, but without giving such a promise it will be a deliberate attempt to frustrate our Nigerianisation policy.

Mr Chairman, I seek an explanation from the hon. Financial Secretary.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation (Mr F. D. C. Williams):** There are two assurances I can give the hon. Gentleman, Sir. The first is that this is not a deliberate attempt to sabotage Nigerianisation. The second assurance is that I will cause the need for a further post of Principal Auditor to be examined immediately. *(Applause)*

*Question, That £52,460 for Head 75 Audit—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 76—OTHER SERVICES

*Question proposed, That the sum of £489,730 for Head 76—Other Services—stand part of the Schedule.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 77—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*Question proposed, That the sum of £28,620 for Head 77—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the amendment that sub-head 1, be reduced by £6,490.

Now, Sir, I want to make it clear that the Federal Public Service Commission was created under Chapter VII, sections 172-176 of the Constitutional Order in Council, and the purpose of that Commission is to have a body that will advise the Governor-General on appointments, promotions and discipline for the Civil Service, and our Nigerianisation policy depends very much on that Commission. No matter what we say here, we either stand or we fall by the way the Public Service Commission does its work.

I want to say now that we have no more confidence in the present set-up. I will give my reasons, Sir. The present set-up of the Federal Public Service Commission should be disbanded forthwith. We have cause for complaint. Sir, the other day I was comment-

ing on the Head of the Medical Department who happened to be a Member of the Civil Service Commission, and from complaints I have had from many people who have gone before that Commission, Sir, these people had a gruelling experience from particular Members. Not only that, I would like this House to examine the whole composition of the Commission. There are about six people on it—three of them expatriates and the other three Nigerians, and out of the three Nigerians one of them is a Civil Servant placed in a high position, but he is noted for his anti-Nigerianisation policy.

What of the other three, they are also Civil Servants. Now these Civil Servants are under the thumb of the Chief Secretary. Let me put it clearly. The Chief Secretary is the head of the Civil Service, and every Civil Servant is automatically under him, it does not matter whether it is the Financial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Chief Secretary is the next person to the Governor-General, he is the person who deputises for the Governor-General when His Excellency goes on tour. Therefore, though the Financial Secretary is a member of the Council of Ministers, when you think of the Chief Secretary, you will find a dual position. Of course people must be subject to certain rules and regulations which are executed by the Chief Secretary, and therefore the Chief Secretary in his position as adviser to the Governor-General indirectly the Chief Secretary controls everybody.

Now, Sir, when you come to the Civil Service Commission all these people appointed are subject to him. There are three expatriates. Now how does this work? Somebody is to be recruited and a Head of Department says, "well I want so and so, but somebody else says, "we will have to look around for a Nigerian, otherwise somebody will say that we are not following the policy of Nigerianisation." The next thing that happens is that it is said that a Nigerian cannot be found to fill the post and they indent for someone to come from abroad. Then they vote, the expatriates will vote in a block, then they will split the other three and draw one to their side, and win by a majority vote.

There is another trick, Sir, and that is to employ several people on contract, who after one or two tours or on termination of their

contract, will be converted to the permanent establishment. We know that this is going on now. They will examine a person's reports, they say, "oh, he is doing very well, he should be converted to the permanent establishment"; something is then written on his file, and he comes along,—not even through the open back-door, he swings in through an aperture in the back-door, if he comes in directly through the back-door it would be difficult, for somebody might see him coming in.

I say, that unless the present Civil Service Commission is disbanded and the Chairman becomes a Nigerian imbued with the new nationalistic spirit of Nigerianisation, unless this happens, everything we have been talking about here will be a waste of time. (*Applause*) So we want the Council of Ministers to tell the Governor-General that we feel that the present set-up is no good. Every day look at the Staff List and you will find so many expatriates, expatriates, expatriates, expatriates,—before you find one single Nigerian in a post of any responsibility whatsoever, because the Civil Service do not promote them. This applies particularly to the administrative service.

Do you think, Sir, that if a Nigerian who understands what this House decides, and the instructions that we give out, will consider it is the duty of the Civil Service Commission to Nigerianise these Departments as quickly as possible? Yet he finds, after so many years of us saying it here that the Departments should be Nigerianised, that the various Departments will not have Nigerians in responsible positions.

But because we have expatriates as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Deputy Vice-Chairman, Semi-Deputy Chairman, and so on, what happens? They will always bring their brothers. Somebody writes to his brother, "Oh, there is a lovely opportunity". We talk here and at the end of the month we go home. And, poor Ministers, in the Constitution you have no say. But for that, Sir, we say we want to safeguard the Civil Service from the influence of politics. But when things go on like this, I am afraid. During this period when we want to change things radically, politics may have to come in to it and let us have Nigerianisation carried out quickly.

Now we have appointed a Nigerianisation Officer. To quote the Nigerianisation Officer: "Look, I have found a Nigerian who can do this job". He recommends that and he sends

him to the Civil Service Commission. And they say, "Oh, he is not up to standard". What can the poor man do? Nothing. So, as we are getting a Nigerianisation Officer now who will be a Nigerian, we might as well change this thing—the Chairman there must be a Nigerian... (*Hear, hear*)... because when we see he is not doing anything (because we must see the result) I will get up in this House and I attack him. He knows he will remain here with me. He knows his brother, his country, his relations, will see his name abroad and he would not like to come out in the day-light. But when we engage an expatriate, when he retires we give him a lump sum and he goes home to his country. But this man is not going anywhere; he will be here with us.

That is why I want the Chairman to be a Nigerian so that we can see him each time we move about. We can even move to his house and tell him strictly to his face, "Look here, you are not doing your work". He cannot do me anything. And the Ministers can bully him. This particular Department, Sir, is so vital to us that we cannot allow the Government to hide under the guise of this Civil Service Commission to frustrate the national intentions and the national will. That is why I move to remove this £6,490 from the Head because that is the salary of the Chairman and the three members.

Sir, I do not want to prolong this matter. In a case which I brought here last time of a competent medical officer who is qualified in every respect, and an eminent member of the Public Service Commission threatened that if this particular Medical Officer was promoted to the grade of Deputy Chief Medical Adviser of the Federation he would resign. Well, Sir, if he will resign let him resign. (*Several hon. Members: Let him go!*) He is the Head of Department and he is in the Civil Service Commission and I would like to point out that we do not want any more Head of Department to be in the Civil Service Commission. It must be neutral. We want independent people not in any way connected with this Department, because if you have a Head of Department who is a member of the Civil Service Commission, he makes a recommendation from his own Department and he comes there to justify it.

Heads of Departments must not be members, so that when they make their recommendations they will know that these independent people will examine the thing on its merits, and he

will not have the opportunity to press his own case in the absence of the poor unfortunate man who is not there. In this particular case that I have mentioned, the Head of Department who is trying to stampede the person is still there. He recommends and he comes to be the judge there. Again you see the injustice. All cases involved in that particular case should be laid before the Civil Service Commission and this particular Head of Department should not be there when this is being considered.

I am asking the Council of Ministers to take up this thing very seriously because we are fed up. We want independence in 1959 and this Civil Service Commission must now begin to work quickly. (*Applause*) There is not a single Department that must not yield to a search-light, the search-light that must be provided by the Council of Ministers. (*Applause*)

Sir, I know we have other Heads to consider. I will not go any further. I know what I am saying, Sir. It is the expression of the will of the Members of this House (*Loud applause from all sides of the House*)—the will of one hundred per cent of the House. I am trying to help the Council of Ministers, I am not opposing them.

Sir, the Leader of the Opposition said I am his representative on the Government Bench. I want to make this absolutely clear, Sir: I have no commission from the Leader of the Opposition. The one commission which I have, Sir, is the decision this House had taken in the past, and it is my duty here to see to it, if I find that the Ministers have not come to certain facts which are hidden from them, it is for me to stand up here and tell them that this is the position so that what they do not know and they cannot get because they are not in a position to begin to go to Departments or the portfolios of their fellow members of the Council of Ministers because it will be wrong—but that is the duty of Members of this House. Therefore, Mr Chairman, Sir, I have done my duty and I sincerely hope the Council of Ministers will take this thing right up to the Governor-General because the Constitutional Order in Council makes it absolutely clear that this is within the jurisdiction of the Governor-General, but I know the Chief Secretary advises the Governor-General and he acts as his Deputy.

So not only is he in this House and he takes notes. I sincerely hope that these changes will take place in the Public Service Commission.

*Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 1 by £6,490*

**The Minister of Social Services** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Chairman, I wish to seize this opportunity to disabuse the minds of Members of the allegation made by the last speaker who has talked of anti-Nigerianisation and suppression.

In the debate on the Medical Estimates criticisms were levelled against the Chief Medical Adviser in his capacity as Head of the Medical Services and in his capacity as a member of the Public Service Commission. Let me make it quite clear that the Chief Medical Adviser's membership of the Federal Public Service Commission is a matter for His Excellency and I am sure that the Chief Medical Adviser would not be, or remain, a member of the Federal Public Service Commission unless he had His Excellency's confidence. (*Interruption*) Mr Chairman, I hope hon. Members are conversant with their Constitutional Order in Council. . . . . (*Hon. Members: Yes.*) . . . . . and they know very well that an appointment of this nature rests solely in the hands of His Excellency the Governor-General. (*Interruption*) I seek your protection, Mr Chairman.

**The Chairman:** The Mover of the Amendment was listened to in silence and the Minister who is now replying must receive the same privilege by the House.

**The Minister of Social Services:** As regards his position as Chief Medical Adviser I wish it to be known that he enjoys my full confidence and support. He is a highly qualified and experienced medical administrator. His record of achievement in Nigerianisation speaks for itself. On the 1st October, 1954, 45.7 per cent of his staff were Nigerians. To-day the figure has risen to 58.8 per cent and will rise higher in the next few months. This is due entirely to the personal energy of the Chief Medical Adviser whose Departmental record of Nigerianisation cannot be beaten by any other Department in Lagos.

As regards a successor to the Chief Medical Adviser, or the appointment of a Deputy, this

is exclusively a matter for the Governor-General and the Federal Public Service Commission. Neither the Chief Medical Adviser nor I can interfere in this matter. For the record there is a Nigerian who is suitable for promotion but he has refused this post. The matter is still with the Federal Public Service Commission.

With regard to senior administrative posts in Federal Medical Headquarters, two of the three most senior posts are at present held by Nigerians, namely, acting Principal Medical Officer (Dr O. B. Alakija) and Chief Medical Adviser (Sir Samuel Manuwa). The acting Deputy Chief Medical Adviser (Dr Leitch) is an expatriate and his place will very probably be taken by a Nigerian when he proceeds on leave and transfer in August. If this is not Nigerianisation, I do not know what it is!

**Hon. Member :** It is not.

**The Minister of Social Services :** I maintain it is!

Lastly, the hon. Jaja Wachuku quoted from 1952 newspaper reports. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order, order. I will not allow these interruptions which prevent the Minister making his speech coherent. The interruptions must cease at once.

**The Minister of Social Services :** I was saying, Mr Chairman, that the hon. Jaja Wachuku quoted from 1952 newspaper reports.

**Mr Jaja A. Wachuku (Aba) :** Point of explanation. I did not quote from a newspaper : I referred to Government press release No. 743 of the 24th of March, 1952.

**The Minister of Social Services :** Whatever it is, you quoted from some writing. I will go back further. In 1925 the then Governor addressed the Legislative Council and referring to a Nigerian, Mr Henry Carr he said "Mr Carr throughout some trying years displayed, in difficult circumstances, great strength of character and the utmost purity of intention. He retired bearing with him the respect and esteem of all his colleagues in the Public Service." These remarks apply equally to the Chief Medical Adviser who is a distinguished son of this country, an energetic and competent medical administrator, a person respected for his integrity and ability and a public servant who enjoys the full confidence not only of myself but of this Government.

Mr Chairman, I hope I have done my best to explain that the Chief Medical Adviser that the last speaker alluded to is not anti-Nigerianisation and he does not suppress anybody.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, we have said enough about the Public Service Commission. I think the only remedy is that when our representatives go to the London Conference they should do away with the office of the Chief Secretary. The present Chief Secretary is an impediment.

**The Chairman :** The hon. Member is irrelevant.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Question That £28,620 for Head 77—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 78—JUDICIAL

*Question proposed, That £142,890 for Head 78—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East) :** Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the Chief Secretary of the petitions that have been forwarded to him by the Registrars of Lagos Courts in connection with their grading. The petition has been forwarded to the Chief Secretary through the Chief Justice of the Lagos High Court for some time now. I do not intend to go over the substance of the petition but the point I would like to underline there is that there can be no justification whatsoever for grading certain officers in certain departments like the Inland Revenue or the Administrator-General higher than the Assistant Registrars of the Lagos High Court. If the Chief Secretary has a copy of the petition with him he will in the petition discover a statement made by the former Financial Secretary when he was commenting on the duties of the Registrars of the Court. Therein the former Financial Secretary said : "The Registrars of the Court not only do administrative work they also do clerical work". And that will be sufficient at least to grade them higher than people who can claim to be equivalent to them in status.

As I say, Sir, I do not want to go into the details of this matter because I am sure the Chief Secretary has a copy which contains the details. It is indefensible that the Assistant Registrars of the High Court should be earning considerably less than Assessment Officers in

the Inland Revenue Department. It is equally indefensible that Assistant Registrars of the Lagos High Court should be earning less than the Litigation Clerks in the Administrator-General's Department. The Registrars not only deal with all the laws of the Federation and for that reason should earn more than the Litigation Clerk in the Administrator-General's Department who deals only with the laws pertaining to that Department ; or the Assessment Officers who deal only with the laws pertaining to Income Tax. I do not intend to belabour the point. I am sure that if the Chief Secretary reads the petition he can not resist the conclusion that these men in the Judicial Department deserve better pay, and I shall be exceedingly pleased to hear, next year when we come here, that he has changed the present rate of pay.

Barely two years ago, I think, the Chief Secretary himself, who is sitting in that very box, said that it was unfortunate that the Chief Justice of the High Court was on leave at that moment (that is Sir Maxime de Comarmond) but consideration would be given to the matter on his return. That was twenty-four months ago and nothing has been done in this direction.

Magistrates in other parts of the Federation earn more than Magistrates in the Lagos Federal Territory. When the Chief Secretary made the statement that, when the Chief Justice of the Lagos High Court returned, he would look into, I would have thought he was satisfied that there was a case for an increase in the Magistrates' salaries : that was the impression he gave this House. I can only plead with him to see that this is done.

I do not intend to waste words because it would seem to me that it is very clear that a case has been made out for the improvement of the salaries of Magistrates and also a case has been made out for the improvement of the salaries of Registrars. I, therefore, take this opportunity to invite the Chief Secretary to look closely into this matter.

*Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.*

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the last speaker on the petition submitted by the Magistrates and Officials of the High Court. If we were given the opportunity we would have tendered this petition here as Exhibit A.

I also support his statements regarding the Magistrates, that they should be given better

pay. I shall go a bit further and speak also about the Judges. Our Magistrates and Judges are paid lower salaries than those working in the Eastern and Western Regions. Judges here in Lagos, Sir, are paid £2,640 per annum, whereas their contemporaries in other Regions are paid £3,000 : that should be a shame, I should say, Sir, to the Federation. Judges and Magistrates are not Civil Servants ; they are in a Class by themselves.

This is a very important Head because in the past four years, Sir, we have not been given an opportunity to debate it in this House ; so I think we must take this opportunity.

Many of the Judges here in Lagos are senior to those in the Regions ; two of the Lagos High Court Judges are senior to all the High Court Judges in the Western Region and to all but one of the High Court Judges in the Eastern Region. It is important for all sections of the community of Lagos that the Bench in Lagos should be composed, so far as possible, of experienced Judges, yet even the two named do not receive the salary paid to their brothers elsewhere who have been on the Bench a shorter time.

And, Sir, the conditions of service in the Lagos High Court are not as good as the conditions of service in the Regions. There was a time when there was a vacant post for a Judge in Lagos : an offer was made, Sir, to an African who also had an offer from the Western Region ; he preferred to accept the offer from the Western Region because the conditions there were better than those in Lagos. This difference in conditions imposes some hardship on those people who are working in Lagos or were born here in Lagos and who would not, therefore, have the opportunity to seek jobs in any other Region.

Judges here, Sir, the Magistrates and the Registrars and other Officials of the Courts, should be given better conditions of service and salaries, if not higher than, at least on the same level as those in the Regions.

**Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai) :** I wish to make a little contribution on this question of Magistrates.

It will come as a surprise to many Members in this House to hear that there is difficulty in recruiting Magistrates for Lagos and the quasi-Regional territory of the Southern Cameroons. Now, Sir, it is always felt that the Magistrates should be treated as any other class of workman but I shall endeavour to point out that this is a fundamental mistake.



Now, Sir, when it comes to professions like medicine, engineering and other scientific pursuits, it is quite easy to get a young man from the university and put him on the job. In other words, it is very easy, in other spheres of business, to learn on the job. But, if you look at the question of Magistrates, that is not at all possible and it is not a correct procedure. You cannot bring a young man straight from the Inns of Court and make him a Magistrate. There the fundamental difference lies: why Magistrates should not be treated as any other class of Civil Servant.

Now, Sir, Magistrates are people who sit in judgment over their fellow men and, before one can aspire to do such a noble job, he has got, by the very process of the profession, to be well-versed in the practice of the law. Most people know that what lawyers call "adjective" law is more important in the administration of justice than the practice of law itself and, in order to administer adjective law, one has got to practise for some years; a man can acquire that knowledge only by practice. So that it is not possible to get any young man fresh from school and put him on the job and give him Scale A, as is done in other professions. That is why it is difficult to get Magistrates in places like Lagos: because experienced people—people who have been at the Bar for some time—find it difficult to leave the Bar and go and start at the figure that Magistrates start at in Lagos.

I remember, some time ago, I was discussing this point with the former Chief Justice of Nigeria—it happened that we were travelling in the same boat—and he put the question to me: "Would you like to be a Magistrate when you get back?" I said, "Yes, certainly I would like to be a Magistrate but I would like to practise for some time." He said, "Ah, there's the snag. If you practise for some time, and you are successful, you will not like to go back to the Bench; if you fail you would not like to employ you." That is the sum total of the difficulty in the recruitment of Magistrates.

I am not suggesting that those who go to the Bench are only those who fail as practising lawyers. I know that there are some very patriotic young men who forego lucrative activities but we must know that the generality of mankind does not regulate its conduct by such noble sentiments.

They want to be attracted. They want something substantial, and as I pointed out, when you have our next-door neighbours giving better conditions to Magistrates, it must be very difficult for the Federal Government to get Magistrates. We have it on record that some people who have been appointed by the Federal Government as Magistrates have resigned only to go to another Region to do the same work. I say that the Government should look into this matter closely and do not classify Magistrates as just a step up from the ordinary Civil Servants, or do not compare them with District Officers, and all the rest. It is wrong.

Magistrates sit in judgment and have before them a real challenge. In every cause presided over by a Magistrate he has to act as an umpire between two or three lawyers, perhaps people who have been in practice before he was born, and who do not expect a young man without any experience to discharge such duties very well. The Magistracy is a very high office, and if you want to attract the best talents to this high office you must be prepared to attract the correct people by giving better conditions.

Mr Chairman, that is my contribution.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Point of Order, Sir, Order 68. In view of the fact that time is far gone, and I am sure all Members here would like to discuss the next Head—Nigerianisation—I am proposing, Sir, if it would please the Chairman to suspend the Standing Orders.

**The Chairman:** It is too late at this stage for me to accept that Motion. A Motion of that nature should have been moved at the commencement of public business.

**M. Nuhu Bamalli (Central Zaria):** Mr Chairman, I only want to say a word or two. Last year, when I asked for the appointment of interpreters in Lagos Magistrates' Courts, I was misunderstood by the then Attorney-General to imply that there have been instances of miscarriage of justice by these Courts. I still want to remind the present Attorney-General that the need for interpreters in Lagos Magistrates' Courts is very pressing, and he should do everything possible to help the poor uneducated litigants who appear before these Courts.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I have risen at this stage in order that I might

make sure that some reply is given before the House rises to-day, and I am going to be very short so as to give at least one other Member the opportunity to reply.

I can say at this stage that all the points that have been raised are at present under consideration. The question of the interpreters, the Chief Justice has very recently raised and it is at present being considered.

I would say that I am in complete agreement with the points raised by the hon. Member.

The petition of the Registrars is under consideration. I understand that a further petition from them is on its way to the Chief Secretary. I understand, Sir, that the petitions deal not only with the Registrars but with the Magistrates. The position with regard to the Judges' salaries is at present under consideration by the Council of Ministers.

**Mr T. O. S. 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, That the Head be reduced by £10, put accordingly and negatived.*

*Question, That £110,050 for Head 78—Judiciary—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 79—NIGERIANISATION OFFICE

*Question proposed, That the sum of £6,720 for Head 79—Nigerianisation Office—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** I have a very short amendment. I want the Council of Ministers to bring it to the knowledge of the Nigerianisation Officer that he has been commissioned by this House to be effective. Secondly, Sir, with regard to Item 6, Sub-head 1, this House does not want this particular item to be passed, because it means that there is a provision for possible expatriates. We do not want any expatriates in this particular case. So I would like the House to agree with me that Sub-head 6 be cut out. We do not want it. There should be no expatriate in that Department.

*And it being 5.45 p.m., the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (6th March) to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair.*

*Question, That £6,720 for Head 79—Nigerianisation Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

*The Chairman then proceeded forthwith to*

*put severally the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 80 to 84.*

#### HEAD 80—MISCELLANEOUS

*£1,660,330 for Head 80—Miscellaneous—agreed to.*

#### HEAD 81—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

*£193,250 for Head 81—Pensions and Gratuities—agreed to.*

#### HEAD 82—PUBLIC DEBT CHARGES

*£3,900 for Head 82—Public Debt Charges—agreed to.*

#### HEAD 83—SUBVENTIONS

*£2,987,960 for Head 83—Subventions—agreed to.*

#### HEAD 84—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

*£5,225,050 for Head 84—Contributions to the Development Fund—agreed to.*

*Question That this Schedule as amended be the Schedule to the Bill, put and agreed to.*

*Postponed Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Postponed Clause 2 amended in line 5 by leaving out the words "thirty thousand and seventy" and inserting the words "eighty-one thousand, four hundred and ten" and as amended agreed to.*

*Postponed Clause 3 amended in line 1 by leaving out the words "thirty thousand and seventy" and inserting the words "eighty-one thousand, four hundred and ten" and as amended agreed to.*

*Postponed Clause 4 agreed to.*

*Title amended in line 1 by leaving out the words "thirty thousand and seventy" and inserting the words "eighty-one thousand, four hundred and ten".*

*Bill to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Bill reported with Amendments (Title amended).*

*Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third Time and passed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

#### Adjournment

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey):** Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. Unsworth):** Sir, I beg to second.

## Question proposed.

**Mr Speaker :** The House knows that it is not usual to have any remarks on the Adjournment, except when a Member has the agreement of a Minister to raise a certain subject, but in the particular circumstances, I think the House will allow Mr Fani-Kayode to make a few remarks.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) :** I am extremely grateful to the Speaker and to the Council of Ministers for allowing me to make a statement.

It is my desire, and I hope the desire of all other Members of this House, to pay tribute to the late Dr. C. C. Adeniyi-Jones. He was virtually the Legislator of this country. I think he served this country in a Legislature for over 17 years, and he was one of the earliest exponents in this fight against imperialism. Their own methods might be quite different, but we are all, I am sure, working towards the same goal.

That is all I have to say, Mr Speaker.

**The Minister of Transport (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, this is an occasion on which the Government will always be one with the Opposition. We do, very much, regret the death of the gentleman who has been a great figure in Nigerian politics, and we really would like our sympathy, Sir, to be extended to his relatives by the people who were closely associated with him in this House.

I support the previous speaker.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) :** I rise to support the two last speakers, Sir, and may the soul of the late Dr C. C. Adeniyi-Jones rest in peace.

*Question, That this House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at six minutes to six o'clock until 9 a.m. on Friday the 22nd of March, 1957.*

## QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

## Question—

**W.91. Mr J. A. Effiong** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

If he is aware of the poor condition of the buildings of Her Majesty's Prison at Itu ; and if he will consider providing new buildings there as soon as possible.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** Prison buildings are of mud block and corrugated iron roofs in good condition with the exception of the prison office and store which have mat roofs. There buildings will be re-roofed with pan in the next financial year. The capacity of the prison is 90 prisoners and the look-up to-day is 73. It is, therefore, not proposed to erect further prison accommodation although existing buildings will receive the usual annual maintenance. During the year four two-roomed houses have been erected for warders and are nearing completion.

## Question—

**W.105. Mr L. A. Ning** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

If he is aware that the prisons and the general organisation in the prisons in the Southern Cameroons are not satisfactory ; and if he will remedy this.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** It is admitted that all the prisons in the Southern Cameroons are not entirely satisfactory but it is not correct that the general organisation is deficient. A full-time Superintendent of Prisons based on Buea has recently been appointed, who will inspect all the Prisons in the Southern Cameroons at least once a month. In the Financial year 1957-58, necessary renovations will be done to the prisons there to bring them up to a satisfactory condition.

## Question—

**W.115. Mr F. T. Odum** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

If he is aware of the deplorable condition of the prison buildings and quarters in Ahoada ; and if he will take steps to improve them.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** Steps are being taken to improve the condition of all prison buildings and warders' quarters throughout Nigeria and the Cameroons and it is admitted that at present they leave much to be desired. Ahoada, however, has not been neglected as would appear to be the case from the wording of the question. During the period January, 1956, to January, 1957, the sum of £952 was being expended on building materials or an average of £10 per head per

prisoner. (Capacity 94 prisoners). This is far higher than the general average over the country, that is, £46,000 for 11,000 prisoners or £4-10s per head.

## Question—

**W.117. Mr T. A. Ajayi** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs :—

If he is aware of the deplorable condition of the prison in Ado-Ekiti in which the cells have no ceiling ; and if he will make funds available for the improvement of the buildings in the interest of the health of the prisoners.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** It is not correct that the condition of the prisons in Ado-Ekiti is deplorable. It is true that the pan-roofed cells have no ceilings ; but ceilings will be fitted to all these cells in the 1957-58 financial year.

## Question—

**W.118. Mr T. A. Ajayi** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

When he proposes to fulfil his promise to build a Departmental Post Office at Ijero and Ikole in Ekiti Division respectively.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** I am not aware that any special promise was ever given by me that a post office would be built at either Ijero or Ikole at any special time. The building of a post office has always been considered when the business done at a postal agency justifies the conversion. The amount of postal business transacted at the two existing postal agencies on the new basis of assessment is :—

Ijero .. .. .	13,011
Ikole .. .. .	15,774

Conversion to post offices cannot therefore be justified. There are many places doing far more business than Ikole or Ijero which would have to be considered before them. I have however approved of the extension of the telephone service to give a call office service at both these places.

## Question—

**W.124. Mr G. A. Ayim** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state how many Africans have been promoted to the post of Commissioners in the Nigeria Police Force within the past ten years.

## Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** None, Sir.

**O.22. Mr S. S. Tarka** asked the Minister of Social Services :—

Whether he will consider increasing the grants-in-aid to Christian and Moslem missionary institutions.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Social Services :** No, Sir. Grants-in-aid have recently been increased under the Education (Grant-in-Aid) (Amendment) Regulations, 1957 and no further increases are contemplated.

## Question—

**O.158. Mr C. O. Komolafe** asked the Minister of Social Services :—

If he will state the number of cases of diseases of the eyes treated by the Eye Specialist attached to the General Hospital in Lagos in the last year.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Social Services :** 6,534, Sir.

## Question—

**O.209. Mr F. N. E. Ngale** asked the Minister of Social Services :—

If he will take steps to appoint a representative from the Southern Cameroons to the Council of the University College, Ibadan, and the Council of the Nigerian College of Technology.

## Answer—

**The Minister of Social Services :** Yes, Sir. Government will consider any suitable candidates from the Southern Cameroons when next vacancies occur on these bodies.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Friday 22nd March, 1957

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) Report on the International Labour Conference, 39th Session, held in Geneva from the 6th to the 28th June, 1956 :—*Sessional Paper No. 7 of 1957 ;*

(2) Statement on the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Development of Telecommunications within Nigeria : *Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957.*

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLY (SEVENTH ALLOTTED DAY) : COMMITTEE  
*House in Committee.*

HEAD 602.—HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation (Mr F. D. C. Williams) :** Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Four Hundred and Forty-six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges—be approved.

This, Sir, is the first of five Resolutions seeking the authority of this House for the expenditure set out in the Capital Estimates contained in the blue pages in the volume of draft Estimates that is in the hands of hon. Members. Head 602 appears at pages 182 to 184.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Works (Alhaji M. Inuwa Wada) :** Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola, Afolu II, The Awusi of Makun (Ijebu Remo) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not wish to be accused of being repetitive in this House but I particularly wish to refer to an Item, Sub-head 28 of Head 602,

Trunk Road A 1, Widening in Ilorin South. It is proposed to incur a total amount of £1,660 on this road.

Whilst, Mr Chairman, I have nothing against the widening of roads in Ilorin, I think that it is essential that the road passing through Shagamu to Ibadan should also be widened. As I said yesterday, I made a representation to the Minister of Works about the widening of the Trunk A road through Shagamu last year. Although, Sir, the Minister assured me that he would cause investigations to be made as to what compensation Government would pay to the owners of the Houses that would be pulled down in the process, yet nothing has been done so far.

Mr Chairman, it is essential, owing to the volume of trade that is being carried on in Shagamu at this time, that this road should be widened in order to lessen the wave of accidents which occur in that place from time to time, and also to facilitate improvement in the heavy traffic that passes through Shagamu every day. As I said yesterday, the people are willing to have their houses pulled down for any reasonable compensation that Government will be willing to pay. At the present time they do not ask for a by-pass because if a by-pass were to be provided it has to be provided on marshy ground which will cost Government a huge amount of money.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, it is my concern to point out what anomalies there are with regard to the establishment on this side of the allocation.

Throughout the Northern Region, Sir, over five-ton lorries are not allowed to pass owing to the bad condition of the bridges. About £4½ million was voted last year under this same Head for Highways and Bridges, but nothing has been done to reinforce the already bad bridges in the North to allow all types of vehicles to ply as in other Regions.

Last year the sum of £5,000 was voted for tarring of Trunk roads in Ilorin township but, since that time, we have seen nothing done.

Last year I made a complaint about several bridges on Trunk Road A 13, that is on the Ilorin-Kabba road, which are in very bad condition. With this amount for Highways and Bridges I would be very pleased if all these bad bridges can be repaired to good

standard. I am grateful to the Minister of Works for his recent extension of his Ministry's service to part of Trunk A road in my constituency, but I would still like to point out to him that anything done by half is better not done, and anything done by half is not done well. So, apart from the section that is to be tarred I would like to see that all bad and appalling bridges which he has seen himself during his recent tour to that part of the country are repaired.

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

**Mr A. E. Ukattah (Bende) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Motion I would like to begin by congratulating the Minister of Works on his intention to tar a section of Trunk Road A 3, passing through my constituency, Bende Division. The tarring of that road, Sir, is definitely overdue and the delay in tarring is due to the Federal Government's rigid policy with regard to Federal Government projects in the Regions.

By this policy when the Federal Government has any work in any of the Regions the P.W.D. of that Region is expected to take up the work. And that is done on reimbursement. That Regional P.W.D. may have no time for the work on account of the fact that it has its own Regional commitments. Now, when this happens one would expect that the Federal Government would allow that work to go to any private contractor or organisation, but that does not happen unless the Regional P.W.D. agrees to supervise the work.

That is why, Mr Chairman, year in and year out, money is voted for one and the same project which is never done. This, Mr Chairman, is precisely the point I am calling on the Government to reconsider. If the Regional P.W.D. cannot take up the work nor find time to supervise, then where suitably qualified and efficient private contractors are available, by all means let the work be given out to them. Mr Chairman, this will eliminate the vexing situation of work for which money has been voted remaining undone every year. I am calling on the Hon. the Minister of Works to take special note of this point.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr F. E. Turton-Hart :** Mr Chairman, I am speaking in support of this Head and I think if we examine the amount of money that is going to be spent this year on our High-

ways and Bridges we all ought to agree with the hon. Minister that he has really got his programme moving now. He proposes to spend over £2 million this year, whereas last year it was only a little over half a million. Strange though it may seem, it is not easy to spend money on capital projects, and I think we all ought to be delighted to see how well he is getting on.

Yesterday, the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition raised a point on the carrying capacity of our bridges. I remember last year speaking on this subject, and the hon. the Minister replying that since the War all new bridges had been built to a specific standard and since 1955 that standard has been raised from 12 units to 16. I think all hon. Members here would like his confirmation that there has been no change in policy because it is only by the use of large vehicles that economic transport can really be carried out in a large country such as this.

There is, however, one point in this Head which does concern me. I refer to sub-head 7, the Maiduguri-Bama Road, and to its extension from Bama to the frontier which last year was sub-head 10 but this year, although it appears in the Estimates, it has not got a head. In fact if you look on the right hand side the matter is in abeyance, it hasn't got a Head any longer.

Last year in the White Paper on the Economic Programme, it stated that owing to lack of decision on the part of the French Government, the Nigerian Government is going to build a new international road from Maiduguri through Bama and down to the South East. In this year's Report on the Economic Programme, it says that the section from Maiduguri to Bama will shortly be going out to contract but that the extension southwards is difficult and that discussions have taken place with the French Government.

Earlier in this Session the Minister mentioned that he has provided money for the improvement of the Gombe Bridge; he also said that one of the functions of Trunk A road was to cover the international roads. Now the road from Maiduguri to the Gambaru Bridge and on to our boundary, is the only existing link with Fort Lamy and the French Lake Chad area. Over this road every year pass many tons of goods which produce revenue, not only to the country by virtue of import duties, but freight

to the Railway. When the Railway is extended to Maiduguri I would assume that every extra ton of freight that is available, not only upwards but also downwards, is required to make it an economic proposition.

The French have been carrying out large agricultural developments in the Lake Chad area, and if there is a good road to Maiduguri a lot of that would be exported overseas through Nigeria with consequent advantage to our own Railway and our own revenue. But the existing road from Maiduguri to the Gambaru Bridge is not a Trunk A road, it is an international road; it is carrying our traffic now, but it is not a Trunk A road. An alternative, produced I understand by the Minister, is this other extension to Bama. But it is not open now and I would suggest that our approach to this problem has been incorrect in the past. I believe that French opinion has always been firm on this subject. They built a road from Fort Lamy, with funds which I believe came from the United States, to the Gambaru Bridge, they made quite a good road of it and, as is the way of their rather logical thinking, they say "we built a road; if you want our traffic you repair your existing road; if we are going to build a new road, if we, the French, are going to build a new road, we will build it in such a way that it will allow transport of our goods from our ports to our own towns."

I suggest that if we want to keep the revenue that we get from this transit traffic through Fort Lamy, we ought to do something this year. As the extension from Bama is in abeyance, it would look as if we were not going to do anything next year either.

The Minister has got £½ million allocated to this road from Maiduguri to Bama and this is a considerable sum of money to spend on what is approximately 45 miles of road. If the Minister could divert funds to improving the Gambaru Bridge last year, I would suggest that he could divert some of this £½ million to improving the road from Maiduguri to this Bridge. This road is in use now, it is an international road; I do not think it is classified as such and I would suggest it ought to be. It seems to me, from the business point of view, that if you are going to spend money on a road and a lot of money, you want a return from it. If we are going to proceed with the proposed extension of A 1 through Bama, having spent our £½ million and some more, we end in a

cul-de-sac, because at the moment it would appear that the French have no intention of spending a lot of their money to connect up with this new road. Surely, if we are going to spend a lot of money, we should make quite sure that we are going to get a return from it.

There is another point which worried some of us last year and that is the question of Trunk A 3 road from Port Harcourt to Aba. (Hear, hear). All the goods for the Southern Section of the Eastern Region have to be transported into that area from Port Harcourt by road and the produce evacuated down that road, and the Hon. Minister of Transport confirmed this earlier on this week. Now, Sir, last year, due only to the very energetic action taken by the hon. Minister, this road was kept open and there is still concern that in the coming wet season the road will be closed, and I would much hope for confirmation from the Minister that something is going to be done about this road. When he was speaking yesterday on this subject, I did not hear any reference to this section of A 3.

Sir, there is also a question of Sub-head 20, which is the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road. This is a most important East to West link and providing that the heaviest vehicles can travel along it, it will be a great improvement to the evacuation of produce from that area and for the connection of the Eastern and Western Regions. According to the White Paper this year, the road will be completed this year and I notice in the Estimates that there is no provision for any expenditure on it in subsequent years, but this road has not been tarred. I do not think in that type of country it will ever be satisfactory to heavy transport unless it is tarred. It would be, I think, of great assistance to us if the Minister would confirm that provision in this five-year economic plan has been made for the tarring of the whole of this road.

Now, Sir, there is just one more point and that is the international road to the West, the A 5. This road is our connection with the French Territory to the West and to Ghana. In Ghana their international roads are absolutely first class. It is possible and it is worth while to send goods between the two countries and this is taking place now.

Anyone who has been to the Customs post at Idiroko would see large numbers of lorries waiting to go through. But traffic on this road

between Lagos and Accra is limited by the carrying capacity of the Ajilete bridge which is a temporary one. Last year, the Minister told us that arrangements had been made to survey this bridge with a view to replacing it. I think the sum involved is £25,000 of which £12,000 was spent last year and about £12,000 is due for expenditure this year. Sir, if the survey is not going to be completed by the end of this year, the chances of getting a new bridge in the next five years seems a little doubtful and it seems wrong that the whole of the traffic on this road should be limited to one bridge and that our international link to the West, which I feel sure hon. Members would like to improve, should remain so limited for a considerable time. It is, no doubt, a difficult engineering problem but many more difficult ones have been overcome and I hope this one will be overcome too.

I would like to close by saying that I wouldn't like anything that I have just said to be considered as criticism of the hon. Minister.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Don't be afraid.

**Mr F. E. Turton-Hart:** Like another hon. Minister yesterday, Sir, I think I am entitled to say that I am not really afraid of anyone. But the hon. Minister under discussion, the Minister of Works, is a friend of mine; I do appreciate what he has done and I do hope that more money can be made available to him for carrying on his very good work, and if there is anything that I personally could do to help him, I would be delighted to do so. (Applause).

**The Minister of Works (Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada):** (Some hon. Members: It is too early.)... Mr Chairman, Sir, I quite agree it is very early but I feel I should be answering the various comments of Members by instalments, otherwise I may forget what has been said. With your indulgence, Sir, I want to start with what my hon. Friend, Mr Turton-Hart, has said and then go backwards.

The hon. Member, Sir, spoke of the important road linking Nigeria with French Chad, that is A. 21. It is indeed an international road but at the same time, Sir, it is also a Trunk A road in that it is financed and maintained with Federal funds. Well, the question of this road, Sir, is a very interesting one. My predecessor, the hon. Minister of Transport, when he was also the Minister of Works, put a

great deal of effort to get an idea of where the French authorities wanted us to link with them.

A lot of negotiation and correspondence went on but no satisfactory conclusion was arrived at. So, Sir, it was decided last year that a delegation of the Federal Government should go to Fort Lamy and I had the honour of leading that delegation in September last year.

Here, Sir, if you will allow me, I want to seize the opportunity to thank the French Authorities and to show our gratitude for the wonderful way they received us. They really treated us very well. I must admit that I was surprised. When our charter plane landed at Fort Lamy, I saw a wonderful guard of honour drawn up at the airport. I thought it was a French Governor coming, but when the Acting Governor of the French Territory came to meet me, he said "the guard of honour is for you". (Hear, hear) So, Sir, I was simply thrilled. At once, I learnt how to walk like a soldier and picked up my steps like the Governor-General and went across. (Applause).

Well, in fact, Sir, myself and the officials with whom I went to Fort Lamy were very, very generously treated by the French; they treated us very well and I want to place this on record.

Sir, we had a very useful conference with the French. They explained to us their difficulties. There is one thing which is not generally known: the French Chad is administered separately from the French Cameroons. French Chad is administered from Brazzaville in French Equatorial Africa, and the road leading from Maiduguri-Bama-Dar-el-Jimal joins the French Cameroons which is administered from Douala. So that is the position, Sir. The French told us they sunk a lot of money in the improvement of their road and they were not very willing to agree to alter their road as we suggested, and, in any case, they said that there in Fort Lamy they could not give us a categorical answer; they had to refer the matter to Brazzaville and to Paris. Well, we discussed a lot of things and in the end we also invited them to come to Nigeria some time this year for further discussions.

Well, since our arrival we have also been in touch with them and we have been doing a lot of things. An aerial survey has now been carried out from Maiduguri towards Gambaru. If hon. Members remember, I said in what my friend the Leader of the Opposition termed my Annual Report, that a sum of £50,000

had been allocated for the replacement of the Gambaru bridge which is near the border. This survey is to find a possible new route for the existing route. The road from Maiduguri to Dikwa and Gambaru passes through very difficult country, through a kind of soil the engineers call "cotton soil." It is, during most of the wet season, submerged under water and so whatever you do to it you simply cannot make a good road in that particular area. The engineers have indicated that there is a possible line to the north of Dikwa to leave the marshes, but at some other point again we shall have to come to it. This is going to be a costly affair and so we are going about it with all necessary caution.

I do not want to be accused of squandering public money. My hon. Friend the Minister of Transport is even more anxious than hon. Members to see that a proper link is provided with the French. Don't forget he intends to extend the Railway to Maiduguri and we are hoping to attract traffic from French Chad and French Cameroons. I want the hon. Mr Turton-Hart to rest assured that I am doing all I can to see that a fully international link is provided in this place. (*Cheers*).

On the question, Sir, of the forty-five miles of road between Maiduguri and Bama which is going to cost about £½ million, this is another case, Sir, where we simply must spend the money. This is a place which is very sandy. The route of the road is on the banks of what used to be Lake Chad. It is all sand. You cannot get stones there, you cannot get laterite there, so you must use the local material you can get there.

We have Consulting Engineers on the job, as I told hon. Members—Messrs Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and Partners. The width of this road is going to be 22'. It cannot be only 12', as if it is made only 12', when two lorries meet, one will stop on the tarred surface and the other will have to go down on the sand, and it is likely that it will get stuck there, so it is very necessary that this section of the road must be made 22' wide, and that is why it will cost so much.

Another thing, Sir, the road does not stop at Bama. If hon. Members remember I also said in my speech the other day that we are constructing a new road in the Northern Cameroons from U'ba to Bama. This road from

Maiduguri will join a new road being constructed, and it will be a continuation and all one road.

Then on the question of the road between Port Harcourt and Aba, I am afraid my hon. Friend must have missed the point, but I did mention it: I said the road was going to be widened to 22 feet and we expect the work will go out to tender within a month:

Then Trunk Road A 5, Sir, that is the road from here to Otta, Ajilete, Idiroko and to the French Territory and through to Ghana. This bridge at Ajilete is a difficult proposition. As I once reported to hon. Members, the Consulting Engineers are now on the spot, they are actually working there now, but up to this time they have not found a bottom to the place. It is all sand and silt. They have gone down very very deep. They are not being idle, and we are not being idle, we are trying to find a way to solve the problem, and when the bridge is completed it will carry to capacity traffic using the bridge.

Now, Sir, I would like to refer to what my hon. Friend, Mr Olarewaju said when he mentioned that lorries over five tons are not allowed in the Northern Region. I am afraid I have to disagree with him, Sir. Members know that some of the heaviest lorries use the roads in Northern Nigeria. Don't forget the oil tankers, don't forget the huge lorries hauling goods from Jos-Maiduguri and on to the French Territory. Lorries over five tons are allowed in the Northern Region and it is our policy to build all our bridges to the required carrying capacity.

Mr Ukattah, Sir, made a wonderful suggestion and I must say that I am surprised that a man of his intelligence should have said it. He suggested to us that if the Regional Governments cannot undertake some work, or cannot supervise work, it should be given out to contractors. I want hon. Members to understand that contractors, whether they are qualified or not, are all out to make money. Contractors are more interested in the profit they will make than anything else. They have, therefore, to be supervised. You might be surprised, that it is not only the African contractor, but any contractor of any race if he is not supervised, well you can't imagine what kind of work he will put up. Our supervisors, we call them Resident Engineers, very often have to ask these contractors to pull down the buildings

they have put up because they have been wrongly built. So, I am sorry, Mr Ukattah, whatever happens we must rely on either our own capacity in the Federal Government to get work done, or it must be supervised.

Thank you, Sir.

**Mr S. F. Nwika (Ogona):** Mr Chairman, I rise to support this Head and to congratulate the Minister for what he has achieved so far. He has had enough congratulations already. However, I want to invite the attention of the Minister to the disparity that exists in the expenditure on Trunk A Roads between the Regions. In my question on the 5th of this month I wanted to know from the Minister the total expenditure on Trunk Roads A for the period 1955-56 to 1956-57 in each of the three Regions, and the Southern Cameroons.

Now the answer is very revealing and since he was not able to supply the information at the time I asked the question, I beg leave of the Chairman to read his answer now for the information of Members:—

"The total expenditure on Trunk Roads A for 1955-56 and March 31st, 1956 to December 31st, 1956, for each of the Regions and the Southern Cameroons is as follows:—

Total expenditure 1955-56:

Federal Region	£230,888
Northern Region	£1,054,039
Eastern Region	£363,266
Western Region	£900,368
Southern Cameroons	£164,024."

Well, Sir, I presume that the expenditure on the Trunk A Roads is based on the number of roads constructed in each of the Regions, and on the number of miles covered. That of the Northern Region is understandable because of the size of the Region, but the disparity between the expenditure on Trunk A Roads in the Western Region and the Eastern Region, and of the Southern Cameroons, is very very noticeable.

Anybody, Sir, travelling from the Eastern Region to the Western Region and then on to the Federal Territory will notice at once the difference between the Western Region and the Eastern Region. There is a great difference. The roads in the Eastern Region are narrow and bumpy and crooked. There are temporary bridges, but when you come to the Western Region the roads are wider, smoother and straighter. I know, of course, that there

are some sections in the Western Region where the roads are very crooked.

An hon. Member speaking yesterday mentioned the fact that between Akure and Ilesha and Benin you have very dangerous corners for about six miles; when you are travelling over this road, you will see a notice warning drivers about this six miles of dangerous corners. Well, Sir, such conditions do not satisfy us and I therefore appeal to the Minister of Works to kindly improve these conditions and make the roads better for all of us.

I am inviting him therefore, Sir, to attend to the cause of the Eastern Region. In the Eastern Region we have not good roads at all. The bridges are not good. For instance, the hon. Turton-Hart when speaking mentioned the fact that the road from Aba to Port Harcourt is not good. The only important bridge on that road, the Imo River bridge, is very very narrow. I notice that in the programme for 1957-58, there is no mention of the reconstruction of the Imo River bridge. I do not know if the Minister does not think that it is time this bridge was reconstructed.

I have to thank him, however, for the reconstruction of the bridge on the Enugu-Onitsha-Owerri road. But there is another important bridge on that road that has not been included: that is the Owerinta bridge. It is dilapidated; it is narrow.

**Some Hon. Members:** They have started work on it.

**Mr Nwika:** I see, but there is room for improvement in the East. The hon. Minister should kindly come over to the East, give us more roads and better roads so that all of us may enjoy the amenities provided by the Federal Government.

I congratulate the Minister and I hope that my observations will be a guide to his future programme.

**M. Baba Daradara (East Central Kano):** Sir, I rise to support the whole estimated capital expenditure under this Head. In doing that, Mr Chairman, I beg to make certain remarks.

Sir, this Ministry of Works has done a great deal of work during the financial year 1956-57, and the progress made can easily and obviously be seen in nearly every corner in all the Regions, especially Trunk Road "A". The Minister has shown great interest, courage and endurance

in taking upon himself all the duties assigned to him by stepping into every part of Nigeria including the Southern Cameroons to see for himself the different conditions of all the Federal roads and works.

Mr Chairman, the able Minister did not all the time sit in his office nor in his house to enjoy the comfort of his ministerial nice cushion chairs. The able Minister, Sir, together with all his staff deserve showers of praise from all sides of this hon. House. (Loud applause). I may say, Sir, that the hon. Minister is more than a single Minister: he is a Minister and a half of a Minister put together. Sir, if I had the power I would recommend twice as much of his total requirement for the coming financial year 1957-58.

Before I take my seat, Sir, I beg to wish the hon. able Minister a happy new financial year, more courage, endurance and greater success. (Hear, hear.) I hope he will get a nice big whip with which to chase all his staff to cause them to make a better pavement on our roads leading to self-government in 1959 which is now under consideration. (Loud applause.)

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope the Minister of Works will pardon me for breaking the monotony of this endless encomium. I would start by asking for an assurance from him on one particular point.

Last year we provided £2.7 million on this particular Head of the Estimates and I presume that we provided that not just because that was the maximum we could afford last year, but because we reckoned that the executive capacity of his Department is sufficient to give us maximum benefit from this vote. Now I say that because those who are familiar with the International Bank Mission Report would remember that the Report stressed lack of personnel in the Public Works Department and certain recommendations were made to improve the position. Whether the recommendations have been acted upon or not the Minister has not been able to tell us. I refer particularly to the point made by the International Bank Mission on the question of staffing of the Department.

Now I refer to page 325 of the International Bank Mission Report, with the permission of the Chairman. The section dealing with that personnel reads as follows:

"The road organisation suffers from the same shortage of trained personnel at all

levels that plagues other Nigerian technical services and, like them, must now depend and will continue to depend for some time on non-Nigerian personnel. There is a serious shortage of engineers which not only slows down and sometimes even halts operations, but also affects the training and supervision of overseers."

Well, I read just the end:

"Some fifty additional inspectors of works would be needed for the proposed programme. Expatriate personnel is still necessary, but should be easier to recruit than engineers. Some countries, for example Italy, are known to have highly skilled technicians in this field. It should be possible within a period of ten years to train enough Nigerians to fill these posts. This training can be provided in local technical schools with one or two years' training in the service itself."

This is the portion on which I would like the Minister to assure us that he is acting on this particular recommendation of the International Bank Mission.

Now, the only point to which I would invite the attention of the Minister is the amount we are spending on the maintenance of our roads. We like tarred roads, bituminous surface is very dear to our hearts, but I am afraid whether we are not spending too much on maintaining these bituminous roads. Is it not time for us to start some sort of investigation and research into finding ways and means of lengthening the lives of our bituminous roads? The cost of one mile of what one may describe as tarred road is now as high as £3,500, that is to tar one mile of road. If I am wrong the hon. Minister should put me right. And what is the expected life of this road? Within three years it deteriorates and resurfacing is necessary. I think that this is an abnormally high cost of maintenance.

I do not blame the Minister for it nor do I blame anybody in particular in the Department. But can we afford this excessive cost of maintenance? Is it not time for us to start making investigation as to ways and means of lengthening the lives of our roads? I think it is a serious problem and a solution must be found. It will be more and more serious when the length of our bituminous roads increases. It will mean that every

three or four years we must find sufficient money to re-tar the whole of the length of trunk roads 'A'. This would mean if 'X' is the length of the road the cost will mean "X" × £3,500 every three or four years. I hope the Minister will be able to enlighten the House as to what he is doing in order to find a solution to this rather intriguing problem.

I notice on the first sub-head of this Estimate "Road Equipment" that the amount provided is up to £244,400. In other words it is the Government of the Federation, or to be precise, the Public Works Department that supplies equipment for the construction and maintenance of our roads. I am quite sure that old Members of the Finance Committee will remember what argument arose on this particular point. When we give our work over to contractors we more or less supply all the tools with which the job would be done. We supply them with tractors, we supply them with various types of things.

I am not quarrelling in particular with that. If you want the job to be done expeditiously I think we must provide our contractors with the tools with which to do the job. But my main point is this: if by providing these tools we are acting strictly in accordance with the recommendations of the International Bank Mission, I think we should extend this particular generosity to the indigenous contractors. If the Minister would extend it to them we will be able to hand more work to our own indigenous contractors. A high percentage of our road contracts is being handled now by foreign contractors.

The foreign contractors are rather ingenious and I do not want Members to misquote me. They resort to one very expert ingenuity of late. That is, a foreign contractor wishing to come to Nigeria, knowing the temper of the age—the nationalistic feeling of the people, might come by the back door and say, I will just mention an example, to Chief Onyia, "We would like to have you on our directorate. You do not put a penny there, we make use of your name to decorate our letter-head and to allay the fears and suspicions of people like Jaja Wachuku." So the letter-head goes out and one of the directors is hon. Chief Onyia and they pay him a princely sum of say £400. That does not make that firm of contractors an indigenous company. I do not quarrel with that but if any contract is given to such a

company I would like the Minister to know that he has not satisfied the wishes of the Members of this hon. House. There are many of our contractors who can easily expand if only the facilities of giving equipment are extended to them and I hope the Minister will carry out the wishes of this House by providing our contractors with the tools with which to do the job. By some arrangement the deduction for repayment may be made out of the work given to these contractors.

The next point I would like to raise is in connection with our bridges. I repeat that we all appreciate the fact that these bridges are now being replaced. Many of them are being repaired. But I am not quite sure whether the Minister is acting in strict accordance with the wishes of this hon. House. Those who are familiar with the Report of the International Bank Mission will remember that a lot was said about the single-lane bridges in Nigeria, and to refresh the memory of Members, with the permission of the Chairman, I will read just a short extract from it.

On page 323 last paragraph but one it says: "Single-lane bridges present no problem on local roads where traffic is light. But on heavily travelled roads, particularly on those 20 feet wide, the occurrence of bridges at short intervals slows down traffic and increases the danger of accidents. The Mission therefore recommends the widening to two-lane width of the numerous short bridges on the main roads."

I would therefore appeal to the hon. Minister to accept the recommendations of the International Bank Mission on this particular aspect. Our bridges should not only be renewed but let them be widened so that they can take two vehicles at one and the same time. I think that this will be economic in the long run. If we do not do it now, considering the alarming rate at which the number of vehicles in the country increases, we will be forced to do it within the next five or ten years and the cost then may be much more excessive than it is at the moment.

There is also one point raised in the Report which the Minister does not appear to have acted upon. We talk very much of our tarred roads and the bituminous surfacing of roads. We must however face facts. It will be many years from now before the whole length of

Trunk A roads can be completely tarred. Many of them will remain untarred for a number of years not because we do not want to tar them; one reason is because of our funds which may not be adequate for it, and the other is that even where we have the funds our executive capacity may not be able to keep pace with our desire. What is to be done in the meantime? We have our earth road which is maintained at the moment by hand. The International Bank Mission told us that there could be mechanised maintenance of earth road. The cost of it apparently will be much higher than it is now but in the long run it will be more economic because the mechanically maintained earth road will last much longer and it will be more economic to maintain after a number of years than what is being done now with gangs of labourers who work merely with hands.

I hope that our hon. Minister will be able to allay our fears that he is not only tarring the roads but that he has also a scheme of maintaining the roads that are not tarred. Which one leads to self-government in 1959 I do not know. Whether it will be the tarred road, the bituminous road or the earth, I hope the hon. Minister will show us the road.

**Hon. Members :** All of them.

**Mr H. O. Chuku (Bende) :** Mr Chairman, it was gratifying to hear from the hon. Minister of Works yesterday that the Trunk A road Aba-Umuahia-Okigwi-Oji River will be tarred immediately after a contract has been signed sometime in April of this year. I would also appeal to the hon. Minister that before he concludes his agreement he must have to include the widening of the roads and bridges of this particular Trunk A road. It does not only make for economy, it is also going to satisfy the constant agitation by the hon. Members of this House from that particular area. The people from that area have no other transport facilities for the evacuation of their produce to Port Harcourt wharf other than that road.

So I will appeal to the able Minister to take also into consideration the importance of produce in the economy of this country.

Now that the money is available for this work I must add that the so-called widening and tarring of the Port Harcourt-Aba Road is not satisfactory. Sometimes, when this road is sort of repaired, after the first rain the tar is washed off and becomes bumpy and the road is impassable during that particular period.

As somebody said yesterday too, it is not possible for us to depend mainly on the P.W.D. because nobody supervises the work done by the P.W.D. If our contractors are given the opportunity to take some of this work from P.W.D. it would be proper for the P.W.D. to have their own men to supervise the work of these contractors; if we do that, it will minimise all this huge expenditure on our roads.

I must also congratulate the Minister of Works for his past activities and I have high hopes for this year now the funds for the job have been doubled.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Aminu Tafida (North West Sokoto) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head and, in doing so, I should like to convey a message of congratulation from my Constituency to the Minister of Works for the great and valuable work started on the Sokoto-Illela Road.

Mr Chairman, Sir, while I say we are grateful for the effort of this Government in general in the improvement of trunk A roads in Sokoto Province, yet I should like to point out there is still more room for further improvement. The essential improvements that are urgently required are the widening of bridges and culverts and strengthening of the deserved bends on the Sokoto-Gusau Road.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr P. Aiyuk (Mamfe) :** I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. When the Minister of Works outlined the programme of work yesterday I wanted to congratulate him but I had not the opportunity; I am, therefore, taking this opportunity to thank him for his unbroken effort to improve the Federal road system of this country, most especially as he has endeavoured to pay a recent visit to the Cameroons. But I would have liked him to do this during the rains; he would have seen for himself the reasons for the repeated complaints in this House.

I would like to say, Mr Chairman, that we have always urged the unity of Nigeria, and are constantly looking for doctors to cure the disease which affects the unity of Nigeria, and that the Minister of Works is one of these doctors. If the different parts of Nigeria have to link together, I think road communication is one of the important things that will bring

about the unity of the country. With good road communication I think it will be possible for the people of the different parts of Nigeria to mingle together and understand themselves.

I wish to say that I have to be repetitive in making complaints about the Federal roads in the Southern Cameroons. There is a proverb in my vernacular that: "If a child does not stop crying, the mother will not stop singing." I was happy to note that the Minister of Works mentioned that the approaches of trunk road A. 4 to Kumba and Mamfe Division had been tarred but I was disappointed when he mentioned that the remaining section of the road is being surveyed for reconstruction and tarring: that present continuous tense is what gave me the disappointment—"is being surveyed." If my memory serves me well, I thought this road was surveyed last year by the Federal survey team and I do not know whether this survey has not been completed. If this road is still being surveyed, when was the survey started and when is it going to end before the contracts are drawn up?

I would like the Minister of Works to give me an assurance that the amount which has been voted for this section of the road under this Head, which is £150,000, is not handed over to the P.W.D. again to be wasted and that the contracts will be drawn up and that this amount will be handed over to the contractors.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**The Chairman :** I shall call upon Mr Wachuku to speak next. I must ask the Minister to speak at about twenty-five past, because we have two Heads to do this morning—the other one is a pretty big one.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** I shall not take very long, Mr Chairman.

During the last Budget Session I think I was one of the severest critics of the Public Works Department. Then we said that they were asleep and that they should be named the Public Waste Department. But now, Sir, there are signs of improvement. Every one of us has been supplied with a road map so that, when we talk about trunk A roads, what we are talking about is clearer because you can see the various roads and the areas they connect. For this one I am very thankful and I show my appreciation to the Department for doing this. They could have done this earlier but—better late than never!

Now, Sir, the Minister has received enough congratulation and enough encomium. There is this point I want to make: while we are grateful for the improvement that has been going on for some time now, I want to point out that on the Enugu-Onitsha-Owerri Road there are two bridges; one has been completed on the Enugu Road and another has been completed but the approaches are not yet completed.

There is one small bridge at mile 33. This bridge is at a very dangerous corner, immediately after the new bridge. I wonder why the Public Works Department did not consider it necessary to finish the work on this road at once, because immediately one comes down this stretch of road, at the corner immediately following, one finds this bridge. It is a very dangerous bridge, very narrow, and makes heavy lorries crash into the stream. I understand that a number of them are dragged out by the Shell Company workers. This is a danger that exists and will continue to exist unless something is done to rebuild that particular bridge.

Turning to the Onitsha-Owerri-Aba road, we are thankful that a new bridge has been put up across the Ulasi. That one is getting on well and the bend there is being straightened. There was a time when I was nick-named *Njaba Bridge*; I am glad, Sir, that that bridge has been completed and is now in use. However, Sir, I wonder whether the Minister will drive down there to see the big bend after mile 11 from Owerri to Aba. I know that if this bend is straightened it may be an inducement to drivers to drive fast and damage the bridge as quickly as possible. I hope that an improvement can be made.

At mile 2 after Owerri, Sir, you will find that the bridge on that spot is extremely narrow and one has to make a detour to Mgbidi through Orlu, then crossing into the major road at Njaba or Umuahia. That bridge is very narrow and requires to be widened.

Between miles 17 and 16 on the Owerri road, immediately after coming down the slope at Okpuala road, there are three small bridges. The one immediately on the decline is very dangerous. There are barrels there warning motorists to drive slowly—sometimes at zero miles per hour—and before coming down the hill one may find oneself right in the Imo River. I think the Public Works Department should do something about it.

I pointed out before that the Imo River bridge was on the verge of collapsing. The Minister took notice of that and sent out a Bailey Bridge there to assist us, and now the ~~contractors are busy with it.~~ I am grateful for that.

Sir, if you look at Sub-Head 27 of this Head you will be surprised to find that the Public Works Department is devoting £44,000 to the improvement and reconstruction of the Ikoyi roads, while a sum of £66,540 is devoted to the construction works on the Enugu-Onitsha-Owerri road and bridges. I want to say that I do not see what is required to be reconstructed in Ikoyi that would warrant the expenditure of this sum of money. There is too much expenditure of funds at Ikoyi. This money can be better used elsewhere. Everyday there is reconstruction in Ikoyi. It is true, Sir, that I live in Ikoyi, but I think that Ikoyi has had enough. This figure is too much.

With regard to Trunk Road A 3, I do not know what the Minister is doing about it—*i.e.*, the road linking the East with the Northern Region. I am told that it is proposed to tar the 9th Mile Corner. After the 9th Mile Corner, what next? What about the rest of the road to Jos-Kano-Maiduguri? I would like all of it tarred. When are we going to tar the rest of this road. We want the major roads linking the three Regions to be in first class condition, and I would like this road to be tarred as quickly as possible.

The Chairman has warned me to make my speech short, and so I want to cut my speech short. But I would like to thank the Minister for all he has done. I hope that he will pay heed to all that has been said, and that during the next Budget Session, after filling his first box of encomiums, he will open a new one and I am sure that Members will not hesitate to fill the new box for him in the manner that he likes.

**The Minister of Works** (Alhaji M. Inuwa Wada): Once more, Sir, I rise to make a few remarks in reply to hon. Members. I want, Sir, to start with Chief Akintola. Chief Akintola made some references to the *Report of the International Bank Mission*. He advised the P.W.D. to follow that *Report*, and wondered whether we were using our executive capacity to the fullest and also whether we had all the staff we required. I think I made it clear, Sir, that we are indeed short of staff; but we have applied the advice of the International Bank

Mission in that we are now using the services of consulting engineers. There are a number of them already established in Nigeria, and we have invited another firm to come out and work ~~for us.~~ In this way, we are making full use of the money the House has provided for us.

On the question, Sir, of research and maintenance of roads, I want to tell hon. Members that the Department is fully alive to this. Provision has been made for an engineer who will devote his time to research. Furthermore, Sir, we have, at all times, the services of the Hammonds-worth Research Laboratory in England at our disposal. We contribute to it, and every now and then experts are sent out to us to help with our problems, and on other matters which we may find particularly difficult. For example, Sir, the road I referred to some time ago—the Maiduguri-Bama road—we took samples of the sand and various soils along the road and sent them to this Laboratory in England. Experiments were carried out and we were advised on how best to use the local materials we have on this road.

On the question of the maintenance of roads, Sir, I would also like to tell hon. Members that we have started to make use of mechanised maintenance equipment. It is indeed true that, for some time to come, many of the roads in Nigeria will continue to be gravel or laterite. In some places, manual labour is cheap; in others it is difficult and dear, and so we have now bought a number of mechanised maintenance units and we are experimenting with them in various places, and, depending on the result we get, we shall make full use of these on our roads.

Mr H. O. Chuku, Sir, spoke of the Aba-Okigwi-Oji road. I think I have mentioned this one earlier, and the hon. Member can rest assured that this road is going to be tarred. We hope this will be within some time. He also mentioned the road from Port-Harcourt to Aba where he said that when lorries use the road the tar flies off into the bush. This time, Sir, we are going to do a proper job of it. It is going to be widened to 22 ft. and we hope to have a proper base course on which to put the tar so that when lorries actually use the road there will be no question of the tar flying off.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): What of equipment for Nigerian contractors?

**The Minister of Works**: Yes, I will deal with that. On the question of equipment,

Sir, most of the equipment we want to buy are bull-dozers, graders, lorries, flat and tippers, tar sprayers, tankers for water, rollers, tractors and trailers. Most of these we use in indirect labour, and we hope also to use them with our mechanised road maintenance. We have even in some cases given road equipment to contractors. The type of contract work we have given equipment to is a bad one, and one which I do not wish to continue—and that is Cost Plus Contract. It is the type of work which is now going on between Ijebu-Ode and Benin.

In this case, for the information of hon. Members, there is no detailed survey of the road; we do not know exactly how much the work will cost, and we do not know to a fine degree of accuracy what line the road will take. We ask the contractor to do the work either because we are in a hurry or for some other reason. The contractor comes in with all his staff; we sometimes give him equipment, sometimes he provides his own equipment. He keeps an account of all his expenses on the road in the same way as a P.W.D. engineer would keep an account of his expenses. His expenses are paid plus a margin of profit.

**Chief S. L. Akintola**: Who are the contractors?

**The Minister of Works**: Well, we should not mention names. But as I was saying, Sir, it is a contract which I am going to discontinue; it is a very bad way of awarding contracts. (*Cheers*). All the equipment we are buying here, we are going to use ourselves.

On the question of giving our African contractors equipment, I am afraid, Sir, that this is a question on which I must seek advice. These items of equipment are very costly. One piece of equipment may cost as much as £5,000 or more; and to give it out to anybody when we are not certain that it can be properly maintained, *et cetera*, is not an easy thing. I am going to seek advice on that point and I am not going to commit myself, Sir. (*Applause*).

Mr Aiyuk, Sir, has all my sympathy. I went to the Southern Cameroons recently, and I must admit that the Southern Cameroons has a real problem for roads. It is a most difficult country—easily the most difficult in the whole of the Federation—and to bring their roads up to the standard required will involve the expenditure of millions of pounds.

All I can say to Mr Aiyuk and our friends from the Southern Cameroons is that they should exercise some patience and rest assured that we have their interest nearest our hearts, and that we are going to do all we can for them.

The same hon. Member, Sir, mentioned the survey of the road between Kumba and Mamfe. The survey was in fact carried out. What is now being done is that our consulting engineers are preparing the contract documents to enable us to give the work out on contract, and it is necessary for the consultants to be on the spot to see what is actually there before they prepare their papers. They are there now.

I think, Sir, that I should take the last point made by my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, on the question of the Ikoyi roads. He compared the amount of money we are spending in Ikoyi with the amount of money we are going to spend on the Enugu-Onitsha road *et cetera*. The roads in Ikoyi, as everybody knows, Sir, take very heavy traffic. These roads should be the responsibility of the Lagos Town Council; but the Lagos Town Council will not take over these roads until we have brought them up to first class condition, and that is what we propose to do. When we have brought them up to first class condition then we shall hand them over to the Lagos Town Council.

Sir, I think that I have answered the major points. I would like to assure Members that I will study the minor ones in *Hansard* and deal with them departmentally.

*Question put and agreed to.*

£5,446,990 for Head 602—Highways and Bridges—agreed to.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

HEAD 603—PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation** (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure under the Development Fund of Seven Million and Fifty-eight Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*



Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to Item 12 (1) of this Head, that is the new Government Press Building at Apapa.

Well, as the Government has proposed to put up a new building for these people, it is a very good gesture on the part of the Government, but there is one thing I would like the Government to note under this Head. Despite the fact that the Government has voted this large sum of money to put up this building, I would like to inform the Government, Sir, that the staff that work in that Department are not happy, because the staff there are the people that actually produce the daily *Hansard* that Members of this House read every morning.

Well, it is one thing to provide a very mighty building for people, and it is another thing to make these people that will occupy that building happy, and I want to inform the Council of Ministers that the members of the Federal Printing Press are not happy at all about their conditions of service, and I would like the Government to note, Sir, that it is equitable with the new building to make the staff of that Department more happy. I understand that there is actually a trade dispute between the Government Printing Press and the Government. I would like the Government to go into this trade dispute and see that something is done for these people.

Then I would refer to another item, the Junior Staff Quarters of the Meteorological Services. Sir, I have tried to look into some other places and I have not seen anywhere, say in Ibadan, the quarters there, for Meteorological Services. I do not understand whether these staff quarters are meant only for Meteorological Staff of Lagos alone or whether it will be extended to all parts of the country. To the best of my knowledge, Sir, members of the Meteorological Services in Ibadan, I have not seen any quarters built for them, and especially the Aviation, too. I would like an explanation to the effect as to whether these quarters here are meant for Lagos staff alone, and I want these staff buildings to be extended, too, to the provinces.

Well, I come to Item 32, Senior Staff Housing. I would like to understand something about Item 32 (1) and 32 (2), Block of Flats for Legislature. Yesterday, Sir, Members of this House made some grievous allega-

tions about their conditions of accommodation at Ikoyi, and I see that Government is proposing now to put up flats for the Members of this House. This is very good on the part of the Government; it means that Government is actually taking into consideration the grievances of the Members of this House.

I come to this Senior Staff Housing Scheme. Sir, I would say in Ibadan some of the members of the Posts and Telegraphs go to the town to live. I would like the Government to have a very good housing programme for the senior staff of the Post and Telegraphs in Ibadan, so that when people go there to work there will be no need for them to go and trouble the junior staff in the town. After all, you call them senior staff; I do not know whether you mean to segregate African senior staff and the expatriate senior staff: I think senior staff is senior staff, and it does not matter where they come from. I want an assurance from the Government that these senior staff buildings are not only meant for the expatriate officers alone. They must be extended to Africans.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Ealey (Special Member): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment to reduce the Head by £10. My reason for so doing is that I consider the amounts for two of the items under this Head so small that a reduction of £10 cannot possibly do any harm.

I refer to Sub-Head 9, item 6—Mainland General Hospital, first phase, £100,000, and Item 9, Maternity Hospital, first phase, £75,000. Both amounts are described in the following words: "for site acquisition, planning and site development."

No further information is given in the Memorandum on Estimates, but in the first Progress Report on the Economic Programme, 1955-60, we are told that acquisition proceedings are in progress for a site of 90 acres at Suru Lere and that the access road will be constructed this year. As far as the Maternity Hospital is concerned, there appears to be great difficulties in selecting a suitable site and the possibility—I repeat, Sir, the possibility—is now being considered of providing maternity facilities by extension of the Mainland Hospital.

This, Sir, makes most discouraging reading, and it appears that these two essential projects

are not being pursued with the vigour they demand. The sick, the dying and the unborn children do not want plans, sites or even access roads—they need completed hospitals, and quickly. Why then, Sir, is there this lack of progress? Are the Medical Department's plans too grandiose or is the money not available? This is a matter of urgency—as urgent as roads and communications. We do not necessarily need another University Teaching Hospital, but we do need a Hospital, fully suited to the growing needs of the Federal Capital. I urge Government to resolve all differences and to allow no further delay. If it is too busy, then surely it can appoint a high-powered committee to expedite these two essential projects.

It was my privilege, last month, Sir, to visit many medical establishments, including four Lagos Hospitals. I wish I had the time to describe them all. As a visitor, I was impressed by the skill, devotion and team work of the members of the Medical Department, both Nigerian and expatriate alike. They are carrying out, under difficult conditions, the high traditions of the medical profession and Nigerianisation is well advanced. Hon. Members may not know that at Igbobi the artificial limb making department is in the hands of a young Nigerian and supplies the needs not only of Nigeria and the Cameroons but of Gambia and Sierra Leone as well.

The General Hospital, Sir, has won the confidence and trust of the people and this is shown by the thousands who throng the overcrowded outpatients' department daily. In the wards, Sir, you will see no overcrowding, but outside in Lagos, many, many people die or become permanent invalids because there is no room for them in the hospital and this tragic wastage of life will go on until the Mainland Hospital becomes a reality and not just a plan.

In Massey Street, we have our Maternity Hospital situated in a slum area. Here 9,000 babies are born annually—at least one every hour. This is the miracle of Massey Street; but how much longer are the mothers in the Federal Capital to lie two side by side in a single-sized bed? It is true they are surrounded by skill and care and no praise is too high for the work of the Specialist-in-charge and his staff. Whatever difficulties there are to be overcome in providing a new Maternity Hospital, they must be overcome quickly. The

future of Nigeria is in the hands of these children who are being born every hour, and we must see that they are not born in this slum area much longer.

So much for the sick and the newly born; but there is another reason for building these hospitals quickly. As the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition said the other day, we cannot expect our future doctors and nurses to work under the conditions of to-day. While praising the work of our present doctors who work so hard and so unselfishly in those little rooms in the Outpatients' Department of the General Hospital, we must at the earliest possible moment provide the Mainland Hospital and a Maternity Hospital in which our future doctors and nurses will be proud to serve. (*Hear, hear*). If we do this, Sir, then we can all say that the development and improvement of medical and health services in the Federal territory continue to be the close concern of the council of Ministers. I hope, Sir, that by the next Budget Session, we shall see not an item of £175,000, but a sum nearer £2 million for the provision of these hospitals; and even this is long to wait.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the Head be reduced by £10.

*Amendment proposed.*

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this amendment, I beg to refer to Head 603 Sub-head 2 (1) which refers to aerodromes. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is very much disappointing to visit the lavatories attached to our aerodromes in this country. If you were to visit Port Harcourt, Benin, Makurdi or Jos aerodromes; you will see that the lavatories are in a pitiable condition; very, very disgraceful. I have also noted that the Minister in charge of Aviation has intended to make improvements on them. I agree, but I suggest that since such has been a very big disgrace to this country, I would wish him to start improvements of the lavatories as early as possible.

My other observation is to support the last speaker on the same Sub-head 9 which is Medical. The existing epidemic of smallpox in Lagos has given us a very strong warning. At a certain time, Sir, we heard over the radio that there was no provision for senior service people who were affected, with the result that they had to hire some quarters from the Military Department. In supporting him, Sir, I would like to

say that provision should be made right away to provide isolation hospitals for senior service staff in the Federal territory.

~~Coming again, Sir, to the Head entirely,~~ I think that the project involves a very heavy amount of money to be spent. Much has been said about assistance to be given to our Nigerian contractors, and in supporting them I am seizing this chance to mention that during the course of giving out these contracts, the lumping of contracts which exists in the P.W.D. works should cease right away. That is the idea for the lumping of contracts to favour a certain category of alien contractors registered in Nigeria and depriving our Nigerian contractors by telling them that this particular contract is above the category in which they registered. In this respect, I seize this chance to say that the lumping of contracts should cease at once, by means of refraining from getting a contract of £3,000 from one way and another £5,000 from another way and lumping them together with a view to seeing that the contractor has applied in that category which he is not entitled to.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, there is also another means by which we have been ill-treated. In a certain category, our Federal registered Contractors' Book we have our widows and old men who are contractors. They registered in that particular category to supply sand and gravel. Most of those registered contractors are widows. I would suggest, Sir, that even when a contract is given to a non-Nigerian firm of contractors, the supply of sand and gravel should not be included; it should be a different contract assigned to these widows and old men who have registered in that category.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr A. J. U. Ekong (Uyo):** Mr Chairman, I rise to support the amendment and in doing so I would like to refer to sub-head 2, item 4 and seek just an explanation from the Minister concerned.

You have there new aerodromes and the fund provided is meant for Ibadan and Onitsha. I know that it was at a certain conference that the decision was taken to have an aerodrome at Onitsha and at the same time it was decided also that there should be an aerodrome at Uyo. I would like to know from the Minister what has guided him to decide that Onitsha should be the place of very first consideration, Onitsha

being only about 61 miles from the aerodrome at Enugu. I would like also to have an assurance from him that something will in future be done about the aerodrome at Uyo that was suggested at the same time that the one for Onitsha was suggested.

I would like also to refer to sub-head 11, item 5, where provision is made for building for junior Police officers in the Eastern Region. I remember sometime last year I put a question to the Chief Secretary of the Federation about the Police building at Uyo. He told me that he knew the Police Office at Uyo was built round about 1954-1955 and he regretted owing to lack of funds he could not have that office re-built, but he did promise however that he would see to it that the thatched roof was removed and a corrugated iron sheet roof put in its place. We have been looking forward to this, but until now nothing has been done.

Sir, if anybody went to Uyo to-day, he would see that the police officers are living in houses which are really a disgrace to the Federation, and yet these are the same officers who would live in decent houses if they were transferred to any other place than Uyo. I am appealing to those who are concerned to see to it that better buildings are provided for Police Officers at Uyo and that during the financial year a good police office will be built at Uyo.

I would like also to refer to sub-head 13, Item 3, where provision is made for quarters for prison warders. I visited the Uyo prison sometime before I came to Lagos and I was sorry to see that the prison warders there are actually living in houses that are far worse than the places in which the prisoners live. I think, therefore, that the Government of the Federation would be doing well to see to it that better quarters are provided for these prison warders at Uyo.

With the permission of the Chairman I would like to refer to a Question I asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation some time last year—Written Question No. 64 to be found at column 1467 of the Bound Volume of the Debates for 15th-29th March, 1956, which reads:—

*“Question—*

**Mr A. J. U. Ekong** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he is aware of the fact that the thatched houses occupied by prison warders at Uyo are in a dilapidated condition; and if he

will consider the building of permanent quarters for them there?

*“Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** The thatched houses occupied by prison warders at Uyo were re-thatched this year and it is proposed to employ prison labour to build some permanent warders' quarters there during 1956-57.”

I am sorry to report, Sir, that up till now I have only seen traces of foundation cuts that have been filled up by the rain, and there are no signs at all that these quarters will ever be better. I am appealing to the Council of Ministers to make provision for these warders and the Prison Department and Police Department at Uyo.

Sir, I wish to support the amendment.

**Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki):** Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the amendment. Before outlining what I have to say about certain Heads, I must tell the last speaker that to compare Onitsha with Uyo is not correct. After all, Onitsha is a big trading centre and he realises himself that the Government has granted a loan of £500,000 for the development of Onitsha Market. But if there is to be an aerodrome built it is not Uyo that should be considered before Onitsha. That is not right.

Mr Chairman, I would like to refer the Minister of Works to the subject of Prison Warders' houses. Last year I had an opportunity of meeting the Director of Prisons at Enugu when he came on tour, and I talked to him about the Warders' quarters at Abakaliki, and he told me that before the end of November all the thatched roofs would be removed; but until now nothing has been done. I think that immediate attention should be given to those quarters, Sir, especially in view of the fact that it is the Provincial Headquarters.

As regards the maximum security prison water supply I would like to draw attention to the fact that the warders at Abakaliki prison are suffering from lack of water. We have pipe-borne water all right, but none is supplied to the Prison. I feel that immediate attention should be given to this matter also.

As regards Head 6, sub-head 3, I have seen that a provision of about £4,000 has been made for the building of a new examination hall at Yaba,—it may be for the Yaba Technical Institute, or the Teacher Training College, I don't know—but I would like to bring it to

the attention of the Minister that at the Yaba Technical Institute there are about four students living in one room. The quarters provided for them are inadequate. The students come there for courses for about nine months to a year, from the Western Region, from the Eastern Region, and perhaps from the North, and they are housed in very poor conditions. The beds are not good at all. Three students sleep like animals in a stable. For instance, there are no mattresses, just pieces of wood, one person sleeps below, one on top of him and then another one right at the very top. Well, I say it is very bad indeed. Some of these students are married men, who live in decent quarters where they live and work normally, and yet when they come to this Institute they are expected to live in such bad conditions.

I suggest the Minister should think seriously about this, and improve their quarters, instead of spending money to build a new examination hall. Suppose we have a visitor from overseas to inspect the Institute; well, I must say it looks very poor, that these people have to live in such bad accommodation, without even proper ventilation. *(Interruption).* You may make comments but I think you have never been there, that is why you don't realise the conditions under which these students must live. I appeal to the Minister to visit this Institute and see the conditions for himself.

With this, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

**M. Yakubu Wanka (Central Bauchi):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to sub-head 1. We have an aerodrome at Bauchi which is in a very deplorable condition and I do hope, Sir, that that aerodrome should be improved...*(Hear, hear)*... so that aeroplanes can land there both during the dry and also rainy season without any difficulty.

There are also, Sir, air services between Jos and Maiduguri, Jos and Yola, and I do hope, Sir, that these air services will be extended to the people of Bauchi so that people from Bauchi can visit Maiduguri, Yola or Jos by air and *vice versa*.

Sir, I support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on sub-head 24 (1): King's College. We see here that there is a

provision of £3,950 for the extension of King's College. This is a very small amount and I think it is just an extension to some parts of the College. During the debate in this House, Members criticised King's College about its output and some Members mentioned that it had 21 graduates and they consider that number too large. But I would like to say this, that the ideal thing in a Secondary Grammar School is that every Master should be a graduate, so that that number is not at all too large.

What is actually wrong with King's College is that the number being turned out there every year is very small. What I would ask the Minister to see about is that there should be a larger intake of students. (Applause). A school of that class, in a place like England, would take about 600 to 800 students a year. But King's College takes only about 200 to 250 every year. The reason why King's College should take a larger number is that other secondary schools in this country cannot at present get graduate teachers, but King's College is a Government Secondary School and the tendency is for graduate teachers to go there as they would have a better pay than in the Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools; so it stands in the unique place of attracting a large intake. There should be at least four streams in that School... (Applause)... so that there should be about 120 pupils taken every year.

Another section of it is the Higher School Certificate class. That also should be increased. It is not possible for Voluntary Agency schools to have Higher School Certificate classes in their colleges because of the dearth of teachers. King's College can get the teachers and as such they should increase that section of the College. From next year entry to the University College will be by direct entry: that means that the people who can pass the General Certificate of Education in advanced level in two subjects and also the Higher School Certificate Examination are the people to be taken: there will be no entrance examination again. How are we going to get students into that College unless we are able to get people from Higher School Certificate classes, which is just two years after the ordinary School Certificate?

So we expect that the King's College should increase its annual intake. It can do this

by taking boys from other schools in the country. There are boys from all over the country who have taken the School Certificate Examination in their own schools but have no advantage of continuing their education. The King's College can recruit these boys and thereby be able to increase the number in the Higher classes. (Applause).

Mr Chairman, I will now go on to sub-head 6 (1): Queen's College, Lagos. The estimate makes provision for £100,000 for next year. We do not know whether this amount of money is meant for a new building or perhaps they are going to increase the number of buildings there or move the College from the present site. Now, that College too should represent the whole of the Federation; it should not be a school for Lagos area alone. At present there is no Head for that School, no Principal. I think it is an omission in the last Estimates and they are just trying to put in something now to make a provision for a Principal for that College. That College too should be a counterpart of the King's College which should be for girls as King's College is for boys. (An hon. Member: Good talk.) It should also be well-staffed by the Government so that we may have other girls' secondary schools in the Federation sending pupils there for the Higher School Certificate.

Now, this £100,000 is provided for this single school, we should not forget the case of the Voluntary Agency schools. At present we have the C.M.S. Grammar School and the Baptist Academy for which only £20,000 is put down to help them in their programme of building. Considering the amount of money these schools have spent, if one goes to the new site one will see that the Grammar School has put up a building costing about £50,000, and to have only £10,000 from the Government is not good enough. I think that the Government should be able to give 50 per cent grant for all the buildings of these schools. We know that they are not Government schools and Government may not feel disposed to give 100 per cent grant, but 50 per cent grant to meet them half-way, will be something to keep them up.

The Voluntary Agency schools are doing precisely the same work as the Government Institutions. But for these Voluntary Agency schools, the development of education in this country would have been very very slow. For the good work they are doing they should

receive encouragement from the Government. So I am calling upon the Minister of Social Services to consider this and see that they increase the grant to these schools so that at least 50 per cent of the cost of their buildings may be taken over by the Government.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha):** Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the Amendment. I am going to speak particularly and generally under Medical. I notice that a certain amount of money, about £10,000, is put down for a housing scheme for Nursing Sisters: that is a very good and valuable scheme. But looking through the list we find that there is nothing put down for even Medical Officers. Medical Officers, particularly in Lagos, have been complaining terribly about the question of housing in Lagos. We all know the terrible strain under which people working in Lagos are put.

Somebody who comes from the Provinces to work here in Lagos as a Medical Officer and is asked, as unfortunately has been recommended by Gorsuch, to look for a house himself may take years before he can find a house to live in. I shall cite a particular example. There is a gentleman who is a Government Consultant; he has a wife and ten children and he is living in a house with one single room and a sitting room. That is very shameful I think. I feel in a case like that if it is not the wish of the Government to discourage African geniuses or to annoy them out of this Federal service in order that they may go to the Regions so as to bring in expatriates to come and be the core of the Civil Service, we should do something to encourage these people.

I am appealing particularly to the Minister of Land, Mines and Power that there is a vast area of land at Ikoyi which is being forgotten. In no country of the world (we have travelled abroad) do we see things like that. So that a portion of land could be carved out and used to provide quarters for these poor fellows who are suffering terribly as regards housing. It is rather disgraceful and I feel that the Minister of Land, Mines and Power will do something tangible before the expiration of his office. We are appealing to him and feel he will remedy the situation.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** I must say that this House must be deeply

grateful to Mr Ealey for the able speech he has made in connection with the building of the Mainland Hospital. I think he has put it in a very effective way and all I can do is to support wholeheartedly the representation that he has made. The Minister as usual unfortunately was not here at the time but I am sure that the Verbatim Reporter has done his work well and the Minister will find a formidable argument ably put up by Mr Ealey. The Minister still has a case to answer and he will not answer this case verbally. We would like to see his answer in the form of a building, the building must be started or completed before next year's Budget Session.

The position is very serious, as Mr Ealey pointed out, and something must be done quickly. The provision has been made; all the spade work has been done. The land acquisition has been completed as far as I know, and even the plans for the building have been completed by the architects. What else holds up the start of this job?

**An hon. Member:** Money.

**Chief Akintola:** It is not money. I understand a Minister whispered that it was money. It could not be money because if my information is correct—and it is rarely wrong—the money is there. Over £3 million has been voted but for some reason it is said that the scheme now costs much more than was originally anticipated. The original amount was in the neighbourhood of £3 million. According to the latest estimates the building will cost about £3.7 million. What about the £3 million already provided; to be accurate the £2.9 million? Why cannot we make a start with that right now? The position is really serious. A visit to the General Hospital any day will show you that something ought to be done quickly. A visit to Massey Street Maternity Centre will show you that something ought to be done immediately. I appeal to the Minister to be up and doing. I hope he will not allow us to raise this matter again.

I would invite the attention of Members to sub-head 9 Item (8) Lagos Ambulance Service. We are asked here to provide a sum of £21,000. I do not grudge this at all. But the position of our ambulance service is scandalous. My attention has been called to a case which requires an immediate investigation.

On the 16th of January this year a crew boy on board a ship at Apapa sustained a serious injury in an accident and it was necessary to convey him to the hospital immediately. The ambulance service was called for and an ambulance was brought to the spot. But what happened? They put the patient on the ambulance and the driver was instructed to move on. He said 'no', I must charge 2s-6d. Nobody had 2s-6d with him. They appealed to this man but he would not yield. His authority was that the regulations of the department stated that he must not move unless he collected 2s-6d no matter how serious the case was. Then the master of this boy who had the accident handed a pound note to the driver. The driver turned round and said "Master, no change". The Master asked him to keep the whole. The driver said he must get 2s-6d, no more no less. It sounds ridiculous and unbelievable yet true.

When complaints were directed to the Chief Medical Adviser and this matter was brought to his notice this is the copy of his reply: "I regret the delay in replying to your letter of 18th January, 1957. The incident to which you refer was most regrettable but I am afraid unavoidable since as Government regulations stand at present ambulance drivers have no authority to use their discretion about payment for use of the ambulances."

I do hope that this rigid law would be relaxed by the Minister. If it is not relaxed every penny we vote here out of this £21,000 will be sheer waste. The sooner this regulation is amended the better. In fairness to all concerned, I understand that investigations are being made with a view to amending that regulation.

The next point to which I would like to invite the attention of the House is to congratulate perhaps the Government on providing buildings at Apapa for first offenders in prison. Some time ago the point was raised here that it was time for us to move this Lagos prison from the Island to a place much more commodious than this tiny Island. I do not know whether their intention is to move the whole of the prison elsewhere or a part of it, but if a part of it is moved so that first offenders are no longer lumped together with confirmed offenders it will be a service in the right direction. I am not sure whether the Minister for Internal Affairs will not like to keep some

of his patrons as near him as possible but I think we will all be grateful if the scheme envisaged here is completed as early as possible.

The next point I would like to invite the attention of the House to is subhead 18 Item (3), with rather intriguing title of "Ministers Housing". By some manipulation and clever device this has never been given the prominence that it deserves. I must congratulate the Ministers and the Government in particular for being able to water down this rather intriguing question. They kept it in a most innocuous corner where those who are not vigilant may not even see it at all.

Well, I understand that I must save time: is not saving time the same as saving money?

The first objection to this is that I think this Government is treating this House too much with contempt. It does not matter whether this matter has gone to the Finance Committee 10,000 times or not: I want the principle to be laid down now, that if any expenditure is necessary, which will involve such a huge sum of money, prior approval of this hon. House is absolutely essential.

It has been argued—the matter is here before you—but I have had it on good authority from the Minister of Communications and Aviation that the building is now nearly complete and you are being asked now to approve. (Interruption and laughter). It is not my intention that any section of this House should treat this matter with levity. It is a matter of principle: whether it is right to spend money, or it is wrong to spend it, the sovereignty of this House must be recognized and this House is supreme—after all, we are entitled to contribute our own opinion to the purpose for which the Government is intending to spend £300,000. (Interruption). As somebody said—I am doing it now! What is the use of closing the stable after the horse has bolted? What we are doing now does not help the situation much: this is a post-mortem examination. It does not revive the dead!

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Dr the Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Allow us time to reply.

**Chief Akintola**: Now, it was also said. . . . (Interruption). Things are warming up a bit! I shall be satisfied if I can, at least, disturb your dead consciences. I am now sure I am waking up your conscience—even the conscience of the

Minister of Communications and Aviation! (Interruption). They have no case. When in the midst of depression in trade—our trade balances are bad; the position of the country economically is not as good as it used to be—it is at that time that we can afford the luxury of £300,000 palaces for Ministers? (Mr Jaja Wachuku rose in his place and claimed to bring a point of order.) I am not yielding! I am not yielding!

**The Chairman**: Point of order, Mr Wachuku?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): The speaker has been making a speech which involves a major policy and he should give the Minister time to reply.

**The Chairman**: That is not a point of order.

**Chief Akintola**: I understand the dilemma of my Friend: he is among the guilty! He is amongst those who are spending the money of the taxpayers without receiving the approval of this House first. (Interruption). Somebody argued that I am wrong; I was present at the Finance Committee. I would challenge you to produce a copy of the Minutes of that Finance Committee. Until quite recently hon. Jaja Wachuku and I agreed on these matters but now he has turned round. (Interruption). I am condemning the "spendomania" of the Minister of Information and I am also attacking some stupor—the lethargy of the conscience of the Minister of Land, Mines and Power: I want him to wake up!

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) 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 Head be reduced by £10, put accordingly and negatived.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolutions to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation** (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Sir, I beg leave to report progress and seek permission to sit again.

**Mr Speaker**: Committee to sit again when?

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation**: Tomorrow, Sir.

### Adjournment

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power** (Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring before the House a matter of extreme urgency and a matter which follows very closely on that raised by the Hon. Mr Ealey.

The horrible plight of the little children and women of Lagos in our Massey Street Dispensary has been brought to our notice. There is a specific instance of a mother who gave birth to a child in one of our dispensaries on Sunday at about 1 p.m. and was discharged at about 5 p.m. This woman left for home and, as a result of the aftermath of childbirth, had urinary trouble; she was taken to the dispensary, where there was no help for her; she was rushed to the General Hospital but the surprising thing was that the hospital authorities there refused to take the 5-day old baby: the baby must go home—home where and to whom? There was a woman who was able to take the child but how about breast milk? The poor baby must be breast fed twice a day: once at 8 and once at 5. That woman travelled all the way from the mainland to bring the baby!

When such things happen it seems to me that this is the time when something must be done. If little children are going to suffer, and mothers too, both mentally and physically, it is time that something was done. This is a time of emergency, if you are not going to destroy the children and women of Lagos.

And this is only a solitary example. I think this is not the time to heckle: this is something that is happening next door and I think, Sir, that an emergency has arisen in Lagos and our Ministry must do something to deal with that emergency. We must not wait until other plans have matured: in an emergency you take emergency measures—to stop this kind of thing happening.

We are doing damage also to the Medical people, the Doctors and the Nurses; you are doing damage to their finer nature because, after all, they are brutalised by the sufferings

around them which we cannot believe. Here is a poor baby; they cannot do anything about it, take it away, take away; and Nurses who want to be kind-hearted and all that, well they are brutalised and they treat people brutally, not through their fault but because of the circumstances of an occasion. I, therefore, ask, Sir, that something be done, especially in this particular case, that babies must not be separated from their mothers, young babies must not be separated. They were told to go and buy milk; you know that bottle-feeding is very dangerous unless you know how to handle it. So I am asking, Sir, that such a thing should never happen again, separation of babies from their mothers.

**The Minister of Social Services** (the hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, referring to the lady the hon. Member has mentioned; she was admitted to the Massey Street Hospital at 8.0 a.m. on Sunday, the 17th March, she delivered quite normally at 1.0 p.m. and was discharged at 6.0 p.m. That was necessary due to the acute shortage of beds in the hospital (*Interruption*). Will you please listen.

Mr Speaker, on the 17th of March 36 women were delivered who had to be accommodated in a ward of 17 beds. Discharges have to be made frequently to avoid unnecessary congestion. When she got home this woman developed some internal trouble and was brought back and readmitted to Massey Street on the night of the 17th of March. The next day, the 18th, she was transferred to the General Hospital and her trouble was surgically treated. It was not possible to admit the baby to the General Hospital because of the shortage of cots in the ward in which this woman was admitted.

As has already been said in this House, steps are being taken to relieve this congestion but until the action now being carried out is completed we cannot relieve congestion of this nature. The complaint from which this woman suffered after childbirth is not an unusual one and has been treated satisfactorily and expeditiously.

Mr Speaker, Sir, turning to the heated argument in connection with the building of the Mainland Hospital, I would like to take this

opportunity to make a statement in that connection.

In the 1955 White Paper £2,320,000 was included for the proposed new Mainland Hospital, but the recommendations in this White Paper were accepted by this House only subject to the required finances being available. I repeat—subject to the required finances being available.

During the subsequent year, when the Economic Programme was being drawn up, it was found that the sum contemplated in 1955 would not be available and that only £1,750,000 could be allocated for this project. Meanwhile, on the basis of the 1955 White Paper, the architects had been instructed to draw up plans and these were completed in the middle of last year, shortly after the Economic Programme had been approved. These plans showed that the building alone would cost £1.9 million, without taking into account the cost of land, access road, nursing school and hostels and other ancillary buildings.

It has therefore been necessary to ask the Architects to reconsider this plan and to draw up new plans based on the finances available.

Meanwhile the land is being acquired and the access road to the site is being built. Naturally no buildings can be started until a proper access road has been constructed. A contract for this has recently been placed with the L.E.D.B. who are undertaking this work on Government's behalf.

The Leader of the Opposition, Sir, was asking what else is stopping the work from being done. If the money is given to me to-day, Sir, I will start the building tomorrow. I cannot pluck it from trees; it has to be provided and we cannot work without tools. We do need this money; give me the money and I will give you the hospital. (*Applause*.)

*Question, That this House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to twelve o'clock until 9 a.m. on Saturday, the 23rd March, 1957.*

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NIGERIA

*Saturday, 23rd March, 1957.*

*The House met at 9.00 a.m.*

### PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

### BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, this morning two Government Bills will be read for the first time and the House will then go into Committee of Supply. This will be the last day in Committee and will complete the House's consideration of the 1957-58 Estimates.

On Monday and Wednesday the 25th and 27th March, the remaining stages of the Government Bills will be taken, and the House will then be invited to approve Resolutions relating to the White Papers on Post Offices, Telecommunications, and Fisheries, all of which have been laid on the Table. A Motion relating to the Finances of the University College Hospital will also be laid on the Table before the House rises.

Tuesday, the 26th of March will be a Private Members' Day, and the following Motions will be debated:—

Motion No. 56—Self-Government for Nigeria in 1957, moved by Chief S. L. Akintola.

Motion No. 63—Conference of Ministers of Education, moved by Mr F. U. Mbakogu.

Motion No. 60—Education in Southern Cameroons, moved by Mr L. S. Fonka.

Motion No. 80—Building of Post Offices by Community Effort, moved by Mr F. U. Mbakogu.

Motion No. 82—Mail Vans in Southern Cameroons, moved by Mr L. S. Fonka.

Motion No. 10—Bridges on Trunk Roads, moved by Mr D. N. Chukwu.

Motion No. 50—Minister of Food, Housing and Internal Affairs, moved by Chief J. I. G. Onyia.

If all business is disposed of on Wednesday, the 27th March the House will then adjourn *sine die*.

## PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS EDUCATION BILL

**The Minister of Social Services** (The Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Second Reading—Monday, 25th March, 1957.

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BILL

**The Minister of Trade and Industry** (The Hon. R. A. Njoku): Second Reading—Monday, 25th March, 1957.

### ORDER OF THE DAY

SUPPLY (EIGHTH ALLOTTED DAY) COMMITTEE  
(House in Committee)

HEAD 60+—CAPITAL: POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation** (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of £5,299,840 for the purposes set out in the Draft Estimates for Capital Expenditure for 1957-58 under Head 60+, Capital Posts and Telegraphs be approved.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works** (M. Usman Sarki): I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr J. M. Udochi** (Afenmai): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Head of the Estimates, I simply wish to draw the attention of the Minister to the wretched condition of the Post Office at Agenebode, in Afenmai Division. This Post Office, Sir, is supposed to be one of the oldest in Benin Province. But the way it has been neglected in the past years is very disgraceful.

Last year, Sir, when I drew the Minister's attention to the Post Office, I got the reply that steps were being taken to acquire a new site, when a completely new Post Office would be built. I entirely agree that such was the best step in the circumstances, but I could not imagine what is delaying progress in this matter. Agenebode is such a place that there can be no difficulty at all in the matter of acquisition of land; the people are so anxious to have their Post Office built that they are even prepared to make Government a free grant of land if that is the difficulty, but I know, Sir, that the question of site presents no difficulty in any shape or form.

It is also to be observed, Sir, that for some past years provision has been made for the building of this Post Office in our Estimates,

and it is surprising, Sir, that in spite of this provision, all these Votes, no concrete steps have been taken. I see, also, that in the present capital Vote we have been asked to pass, there is also a sizable amount put down for building Post Offices. I wish the Minister would take steps to implement this decision of acquiring a new site at Agenebode, and build a new Post Office.

After having drawn the Minister's attention to this, I fully support this Head.

**Mallam Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I have much difficulty in supporting this year's capital expenditure. Last year, we came to this House and supported certain expenditure, but till now the Minister did not consider my Constituency's request. Since the beginning of this House I have been bringing the wishes of my people concerning Posts and Telegraphs in Kwara, especially in Koton Karifi, but the Minister has never given great care to these people.

Sir, Kwara Division is part of the Federation of Nigeria. It is a very, very shameful matter for me to come here every year to repeat the same thing, but I feel that this is the right House to which to bring such requests. Moreover, I am one of the Members of the Government Bench, and I don't want to criticise my Government.

I would also mention here, Sir, as requested by my people, that they want the existing Postal Agency to be converted into a true Post Office. We want telecommunications and telephone facilities to be connected with Koton-Karifi; but what happens? Yesterday, when the Minister presented his White Paper, the statement on the policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the development of telecommunications in Nigeria, which was tabled by the Minister of Communications, it is obvious that Koton-Karifi has been omitted.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am appealing through the Chair to the Minister concerned, to take great measures, and to see to the request of these people of Koton-Karifi, Sir.

I beg to support.

**Chief I. S. Popoola (Owo North):** Mr Chairman, I am a little bit hesitant in supporting this Head. The main thing is that the Ministry has got an elaborate plan to revise their old system, or to replace the old materials used in the Post Offices. It were better if they served those who have no Post Office at all,

before they consider replacement of those who have had them before. It is just like when you have so many children; you keep on feeding only two or three out of ten, to the exclusion of the remaining seven. When you have fed three, then you say you are going to feed the three again and again, even though you have not fed the other ones.

So it does not make any sense, Sir. It were better if they leave this replacement in abeyance, and then face those who have not got their own share, so that Nigeria may have equal share in development.

**Mr F. T. Odum (Ahoada):** Mr Chairman Sir, my people of Ahoada Division have been complaining too much about the building of the post office at Ahoada. This post office was built as far back as 1910. It is an old post office, and the division in the Rivers Province is the largest. It happened that a Motion was put to this House as to the building of this post office. I remember last year that a question was asked of the Minister of Communications and Aviation about the building of this post office. I remember, Sir, that in 1952 an estimate was made with regard to the building of this post office at Ahoada. To my question last year the Minister of Communications and Aviation replied that the delay had been caused by the "necessity of altering the development building proposals because of reductions in the Federal Economic Programme. However, Ahoada is included in the current programme". Now, up to this time, nothing has been done.

The division has sub-post offices, at Omoko we have a postal agency at Abua we have a postal agency at Okaki we have a postal agency, and at Nsookpo. All these postal agencies are running well, they require a sub-post office to be built but if the permanent post office is not built now how can we try for the remaining post offices?

We feel that there is too much discrimination in this respect. The Rivers Province, according to my question of last year, has but few post offices, that is about four—Port Harcourt is a municipal area. Now we have only one at Degema which has just been built, but if you compare with those post offices built in the up line, in Iboland, I think the majority is there.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think it is high time that the Minister of Communications should make

a statement with regard to this particular post office at Ahoada. After all, we all are one, and we cry for one Nigeria, we cry for independence; and if there is too much discrimination I do not think it will go well.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**M. Nuhu Bamalli (Central Zaria):** Mr Chairman, I only wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to certain inconveniences experienced by all telephone users in the Northern Provinces. Whenever you take your telephone to speak to somebody at the other end, about twelve o'clock, you cannot hear him and he cannot hear you, why, because there is a terrible interruption by the N.B.S. programme. I hope the Minister would look into this because it is causing the greatest inconvenience to telephone users.

Secondly, Sir, I would like the Minister to take steps to see that in the provinces applications for telephone in stallations are honoured. For example, I have submitted my application for installation for two years and, up till now, I am kept on the waiting list.

And the third point I want to raise, Sir, is that I would like to beg the Minister to see to it that a permanent departmental building is put up at Zaria City for the postal agency there. At present the postal agency is housed in the city Reading Room, which is not the property of the Department, and it is not safe, and is not convenient, to the public.

This agency serves a population of about sixty thousand people of the city, with about seventy-five per cent literacy. I hope the Minister will look into these three points.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr F. N. H. Ayeni (Badagry):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head and in doing so I have to congratulate the Minister of Communications and Aviation for his achievements, one of which is the opening of radio telephone in Badagry recently.

But at the same time I have some observations to make; with the new programme ahead of us I have put in a question here about the post office building in Badagry. The building was constructed of cardboard, and the walls are wearing away. I hope the Minister at this time will consider what to do about the building. And apart from that, Badagry Division is a wide division, it extends to Ajegunle Apapa, very near to Lagos. That

place, too, needs a post office and as the place is very close to Lagos I think the Minister will find it possible to extend telephone facilities to that place.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I am most grateful for this opportunity. Now, I want to express my appreciation of the White Paper No. 8 which has been laid on the Table, and I notice, Sir, that there are certain improvements earmarked for my Division. But, Sir, I want to say, contrary to what an hon. Member said over there, that if a mother or parent has some children, he should leave out the existing ones and begin to look after those that do not exist. Sir, my own suggestion is that if he does not care for those that are already existing he runs a risk of losing them all. They will all die and then he will find that hoping for that which has not arrived will be quite an expensive hope. I think it will be necessary to strengthen those that are already in being, and then work hard to bring up others not in being.

Now, Sir, I am not going by the biblical expression: "to him who has, more shall be given". That is not my point here. My point is that when you take sub-head 4, Telephone Trunks and Junction Routes, Development and Re-construction, also the following sub-heads under Head 604, I have said it before, Aba has no direct line to connect it to Lagos. Aba yields more revenue to the Posts and Telegraphs and to the Government than Enugu. Enugu is the Government Headquarters, but from the revenue point of view Aba yields more, contributes more, than Enugu. Consequently, Sir, I am asking the Minister to see to having a direct connection between Aba and Lagos. It is terrible to try to get Aba, sometimes when you get to Enugu they will tell you, "oh, the line is out of order." The line is not out of order at all, only somebody in the Exchange does not want to connect you. The line is out of order, within a few seconds the line is in order again. We want a direct line to connect Aba and Lagos.

The same thing with Port Harcourt. My Friend Mr Akwivu is not here, and I have his mandate to say it, that as soon as you connect Aba direct it is easier to get to Owerri. My Friend here has been there, and the Minister himself knows that. So we beg the Minister to attend to these things. Aba is a commercial

town, and a strategic town in the Eastern Region. All roads by air, by land, by sea, underground, above the ground, pass through Aba, and that is why every time you hear "Aba, Aba," and it will be very bad if trunk lines do not connect the headquarters of the Federation direct to Aba; so, it seems to me that that should be attended to.

The next thing, Sir, is what directly concerns me; that is the case of Mbawsi. I know something is being done about that now, but I want a report from the Minister about what the position is.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare :** You are being selfish.

**Mr Wachuku :** I am not. Sir, last year I pointed out here in this House that the telephone poles, or wires, at the exchange—everything is locked up there and left to rot. But I understand that something is being done. I notice in the programme it is included in some of those to be completed within 1955-60. I want that to be completed now.

**One hon. Member :** Tomorrow ?

**Mr Wachuku :** I will not say tomorrow, but by the time this Session ends, Sir, I want that to be completed, and I want the Minister to report progress on that line. Sir, the headquarters of Eastern District Council in Aba Division is only four miles from the post office at Aba, on the Owerri Road, and the telephone pole is just in front of it like that. I would like a telephone to be connected to the District Council there. The office is there, just about fifty yards from the telephone poles, Sir. What is it that holds up the P. and T. from just putting up two lines right down there, and attaching the telephone there ? The Minister knows the place I am talking about.

There is also the Ngwa High School, a most important college.

Now, Sir, the Eastern District Council Headquarters is only six miles from the post office. That is surely within a radius of six miles. The Minister can put up a few poles and you have telephone in the Eastern Council headquarters. They have asked me to ask the Minister to give them a telephone. I hope the Minister is taking note of this most important request.

And then, Sir, on the Port Harcourt road, too, about fifteen miles you find Asa, and then

you see the telephone lines passing in front, only about twenty yards from the headquarters office. Surely, there is no technical difficulty, as far as I can see. I am not a technician—I think my Friend Adeyinka will help me in that matter—but there is not much difficulty there, so that the district headquarters should be connected on the Port Harcourt lines. I should be most grateful if this is done because if it is done you will find, Sir, that you get more subscribers, you will find the various towns and villages may be asking for more boxes so as to have extension from the district headquarters, and then you have communications, and then we will know that the Federal Government is coming to the rural areas.

Members have asked for rural areas to be provided for. My own case, Sir, I am not asking anybody to be deprived, I am only asking that two lines should be connected to the lines already there, which run twenty yards to the district council office in one place; two lines, four miles from Aba on the Owerri Road, running to a distance of about twenty yards, and that is all. And then the only other long distance one, only six miles. That is enough. So the Minister should take it very seriously and see to it that my Division is well supplied with telecommunications so that the people there will be able to communicate with their brothers elsewhere in this country.

Sir, I notice certain items, sub-head T, in 17, Ministerial Headquarters Office Extension, a sum of £160,000. I would like the Minister to explain to us why this extension is taking place. Whether it is necessary at all.

Then the General Post Office. There is an extension to the General Post Office, sub-head 17. Sir, I happened to visit the G.P.O. the other day. I think, rather than extension, that post office needs complete reconstruction. It has served its purpose, the building has served its purpose, and I think the present General Post Office does not measure up to a standard required for a country that is looking for independence within a very short time. I think the Minister should do something to recondition that post office to make it worthy of the Federal capital of Nigeria. Some of the equipment there are rather antediluvian. I know the Minister has placed some orders, but as soon as these things are replaced, the better things would be. I would like some members to try and visit this post office, and they would appreciate what I mean.

I would like the Minister also to explain to me this question of acquisition of site. It is a new heading, sub-head 22, Acquisition of Site, under £25,000. What site does the Minister expect to acquire, and for what purpose ?

Now, Sir, there is something—Members know this very well—that in various areas, I know this in my own Division and Mr Ojukwu also has something to say about this, in fact he has asked me to mention it as a first instalment—there are certain areas, Sir, where the people have subscribed money. That was the case before with Mbawsi, they subscribed money, paid the P. & T. for installation, equipment and everything, then they promised to put up either the telephone or post office, or whatever it is for them, then they did not do anything for a long time. And there are some of them, for example Nnewi. Although Nnewi is in the White Paper, the fee had been paid a long time ago, but nothing has been done. So we are asking the Minister to stop that practice of charging people fees and collecting the fees and leaving the work undone, otherwise they may wake up one day and find that the Posts and Telegraphs is dragged to court for breach of contract. The members of my constituency have complained that we should warn the Minister to warn the Director of P. & T. that unless he instructs his subordinates to comply with their request they will wake up one morning and find they are dragged to court for breach of contract, and if they are found guilty the Government will not be called upon to pay the cost, the man in charge will be called upon to pay the cost, but if the Minister does not warn them he may find that there is a cut in his salary to make good for the losses sustained by the district.

Well, in order to enable others to have a say, I support the head.

**Mr B. A. Obaje (South Igala) :** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Yesterday many words were said, and I was so unhappy that my division has been forgotten. Sir, even the province I come from was forgotten entirely. Though I was so unhappy, yet I must contribute something this morning. If the Members of this House happened to see my face yesterday they would see that I was unhappy. (Laughter).

Now, telecommunications. Believe me, the rural areas have been forgotten. Why they do not extend telecommunications to the

rural areas, I wonder. My division has no telecommunications. Agenebode is very near to my place, Idah, Igala Division, very near to my place, and Agenebode is just about two miles to my place. There is no telephone at my place and I should be very glad if the Minister of Communications and Aviation will come to my place and see the condition of the post office.

Now, I can tell the Minister of Communications and Aviation that only one postmaster is posted to my place—only one. We want more. More clerks. You would see my people on the counter, waiting for transactions, but that one man would be unable to attend to them. Many people send telegrams and buy stamps here; he alone attends the people, only one clerk ! So I wish the hon. House will consider this rural area.

**Mr P. Aiyuk (Mamfe) :** Mr Chairman, I rise to support this Head. I would like to congratulate the Minister for his bold programme connected with postal improvements. The programme is as bold as himself and I am really very happy that he has listened to most of our complaints. Last year, I spoke very vehemently about the Post Office at Mamfe and I am now pleased to see that arrangement has been made for a new Type 2 Post Office at Mamfe and many other places in the Southern Cameroons.

There is only one omission, a regrettable one, and I think as the Minister has many things to do, perhaps that is just a mere oversight. During this Session I spoke about Post Offices for Wum and Nkambe Divisions. Wum and Nkambe are administrative headquarters and I think it is very necessary that priority should be given for Departmental Post Offices to be constructed in those two Divisions. So I am asking the Minister that if this is an oversight, he should now take note to see that the oversight is remedied and that provision is made for Departmental Post Offices to be constructed at Wum and Nkambe Divisions.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla (Abuja) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, in support of this Head of capital expenditure on Posts and Telegraphs, I rise to add my quota to the showers of thanks and congratulations to the Minister of Communications and Aviation and all his staff, both technical and the rest, for his bold schemes

both executed and those under execution. No wonder, the Minister is doing his best and still we are not yet satisfied unless we see that there is a better way of communications in the rural areas.

Last time, Sir, I mentioned the replacement of the present telephone lines linking Abuja with Minna with a better double line; and also, Sir, another line is necessary from Abuja, Lapai, Age and Bida; but, Sir, behold I am waiting for the Minister with a kind heart and bold action to take action on these lines with the help of his staff.

I shall not fail, Sir, to mention White Paper No. 8 which shows that the wheels are now moving towards success. And also the system of mail transport from Minna to Abuja, which is now at present only once a week, is causing inconvenience to the interests of the public and this needs consideration of our bold Minister. The people, Sir, want this system of transport increased from once a week to, say, twice a week.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the whole Head.

**Prince R. N. Takon (Ikrom):** Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Head of capital expenditure, I have but one comment to make and that is the question that the Ministry should take over completely the payment of the salary of Postal Agents and also that of mail runners in order to relieve the people of the areas concerned after the hard struggle to put up buildings for the post office by communal labour.

You know, there are some rural areas where the Government finds it impossible to put up Post Offices. So the local people being anxious to connect themselves with communications in other places, have to labour themselves and put up buildings, and Government used to pay the Postal Agents a very small amount of money and the local people are there to make up the salary of the Postal Agents. So I would be pleased if the Ministry will consider this and then take up their salaries completely.

With this, Sir, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe):** Mr Chairman, I have listened most attentively to the various complaints which have been made about improvements of Post Offices and telecommunications. I have also listened to the encomiums on the work of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and my Ministry for the work done

in certain areas. I do not intend to prevent Members from airing their view, but since I propose to formally move a Motion on Monday for this House to accept the White Paper on the Post Office Development Programme and also the White Paper on the Telecommunications Development and Members will have ample opportunity to discuss some of these matters, I think it will be unwise to unduly lengthen the debate on that Head. (Cheers).

And for those who have already spoken, if they have read the White Paper properly, they would have seen that my intentions are clearly set out there so that this House can know what to expect. I felt I must take you into confidence, tell you what funds you have and plan accordingly, and you will see all in the White Paper. You cannot expect me to give you a new moon where you have not provided for even the investigation towards a new moon. So with the money you have, I have given you what you can achieve and this is embodied in the White Paper which you will examine.

The Member for Ahoada will see that a tender for a Post Office at Ahoada has already gone out. The Member for Afam Division will see that under Item 9, if he reads his White Paper well, that provision for a new Post Office has already been made for that area.

As for the installation of telephones, I will take this opportunity to give you some data on this subject now. During the year 1956-57 I met with members of my Ministry and Department and we set a goal for ourselves, a target for telephone installations for this year was set; the figure was 3,000. I will now give you a progress report on that target. We shall set another goal for another year, but let me first of all give you information about what has been achieved so far.

Up to the 31st January, 1957, that is beginning from April 1956 to January 1957, we have installed in Lagos 1,280 telephones: in the Western Region 468; in the Eastern Region 450; in the Northern Region 270 and in the Southern Cameroons 32. (Interruption). Hon. Members, I am certain it would be better if you were to listen when I am giving my report and when it is complete, you can fire back.

I have given you data up to the month of January 1957, but 31st March, 1957 will bring us to the full year, and since this report was compiled before that date, I want to give you an approximate number which we have set; that

is, up to January we have completed 1,280 for Lagos, but now our target up to the end of this month will be 1,550; and for the Western Region 568, for the Eastern Region 530; for the Northern Region 360, and for the Southern Cameroons 48, bringing the total up to 3,056. That will complete the target.

Coming now to the overall picture. I have called the Management Board of the Department to give me information town by town in each Region as to why telephone installations have not been carried out. (Applause). What is the cause for the delay, and this investigation will be a review of the country as a whole, the North, the East, the West, and the Southern Cameroons. That Board has met and the report has been placed before me. I want to find out how many subscribers there are on each exchange, how many have been added to the list, and how many vacancies there are, and why installations have not been carried out. Once I have all this data then I can determine whether the need is for more equipment which has not been sent, whether our stores arrangements are weak, or whether the trouble is due to shortage of staff—but until I have got all that information I cannot give you a complete picture.

One thing I realised throughout my tour of the country, that wherever one goes, one finds more and more telephone installations, and I wish to tell this Legislature that it is my duty to carry out the wishes of this House. (Applause). If I make arrangements to give you a new heaven, and then you say you wish for a new earth, then I must do everything I can to get it for you; but from what I have heard in this House I can see that Members wish for more telephones, and I intend to supply them with all speed. (Applause).

Mr Chairman, Sir, since there will be a chance for more debate on this subject later, I do not think hon. Members will press me more now.

**Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, from what the Minister has told us, we do not as yet know how many private subscribers and how many telephones were given to Government offices last year.

Sir, speaking on this Head of expenditure I refer the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation to sub-head 8,—Technical Assistance—for which a sum of £45,000 has

been voted. I read in the memorandum, Sir, that there are plans for the expansion of telephone services. I wish to say that Ibarapa District Council petitioned the hon. Minister in 1955 for telephone services in Igboora and Eruwa. So far no reply has been received. There is no mention of these places in the White Paper, particularly that District.

I would like the hon. Minister therefore to include them in his new plans. Whilst I would thank the hon. Minister, Sir, for the Postal Agency opened at Sanusi Railway Station, I would like to point out that we need Post Offices at Eruwa, Igboora and Tapa.

Sir, as I have said before during this Session, the Postal Agencies we have are never inspected. We never see one single Inspector coming to see whether they ever need improvement, and in this case I think it will be difficult for the hon. Minister to understand why we need Post Offices. If recommendations go through the appropriate channels to the hon. Minister, I hope he will be good enough to give due consideration to our requests.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Head.

**The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kola Balogun)** 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.*

*Resolved,* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 604.—Capital: Posts and Telegraphs, be approved.

HEAD 605—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation (Mr F. D. C. Williams):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That this House approves the expenditure from the Development Fund of £6,267,440 for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1957-58, under Head 605—other Capital Expenditure.

Hon. Members, Sir, will have noticed that the sum which this Motion seeks to appropriate is different from the total of Head 605 as shown at the foot of page 198 of the Estimates. The



difference amounts to £285,000 and I think it will be helpful if at this stage I explain the reason for this.

The draft of the Estimates was completed early in January and was then sent to the Government Press so that printed copies could be available for despatch to Members at the end of that month. However, the review of the Economic Programme contained in Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1957, which was laid on the Table of this House early in the present Session, was still being undertaken and the changes in the Programme which the Federal Government proposes to make and which are set out in paragraph 18 of that White Paper could not be reflected in the printed draft Estimates which Members now have before them.

Funds for some of the changes proposed in the Sessional Paper are not immediately required but as far as the Naval Force is concerned, provision is required immediately to enable orders to be placed for warships, guns and ammunition, and for the construction of a small ammunition magazine. This will necessitate the insertion of a new item of expenditure under sub-head 4 of this Head. I would add that the total cost of these proposals amounts to £535,000, but only £285,000 is required during 1957-58. My hon. Colleague, the Chief Secretary, will be able to explain this aspect of the matter in greater detail.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr D. E. Okereke** (Owerri): Mr Chairman, reading through the items of expenditure under this Head along with others under Head 603 and also Heads 68 and 69, and in fact most other Heads of expenditure, a deplorable state of expenditure reveals itself. I need hardly remind ourselves, hon Members, that we are shepherds of this country's economy and that it is our duty, when we leave this Legislature some time to come, to leave the Government and this country a healthier and stronger Government.

I think it is time we hon. Members do not stop at saying "Aye, Aye" but to reject some items of expenditure. Persons outside the Civil Service and even other Civil Servants do

agree that the utmost economy is not effected in our expenditure as in business and private life. We are a growing country and we need a lot of money.

I am going to refer now to Military and Defence, that is subsection 4 (1) and (2): Military Buildings and Accommodation and Naval Force. I consider that the expenditure under this Head is too small, compared with the expenditure on other Heads: it is very scanty. This is a growing country and we are aiming at independence. I for a moment do not want the framers of expenditure to give us the impression of a red-tape policy, a policy of repeating the same thing over and over the years, or some subtle device to check our pace of emancipation by keeping our figures so very vital towards that end. We must remind ourselves, hon. Members, that some of us quite consciously do help the Civil Servant to put in such items of expenditure in our Estimates which he knows truly are not really essential because we spend a lot of time speaking on one Head with the result that there is no time at all to deal with others, and there they go.

I will for a moment show why I think that the Estimate under Defence is so small. We want more money for Defence. (*Hear, hear.*) We are aiming at independence and on our independence day there is not even a single aircraft to grace the air; there is not even one cruiser to boom guns on our shores. As Nigeria's shepherds, with independence in view, I think it behoves everyone of us to see to what is going to be our international status. We must be able, when we become independent, to bargain with strength. We must see about what is going to be the status of this country. We must think about our currency; we must think about our defence and we must think about our Naval Force (there is no provision for a Naval Force, as a matter of fact).

**Some hon. Members:** There is.

**Mr Okereke:** It is too small, that is why I said "as a matter of fact". I think it is time that we called a halt, Gentlemen, to what I may call criminal waste, and I think if this state of expenditure is going to go on, I will bring a Motion to this House and ask the Government to consider the creation of the post of an Economy Officer whose business will be to go through the whole Departments

and cut down expenditure drastically to the barest minimum that will be really useful to this country. (*Hear, hear.*) I think the time is ripe that we got an Economy Officer. For example, there was an item where I seem to find that the sum of nearly £4 million is set out for senior staff housing. What is the use of spending about £4 million for housing when we have the barest means of a nation?

**Some hon. Members:** £4 million?

**Mr Okereke:** Nearly £4 million; over £3 million.

Gentlemen, I think the way in which we can economise is to see that all these things under this Head, that the African contractor be given a chance. We can economise in that way because I think it is too plain that the foreign contractor will need more money than the African contractor. The only complaint about the African contractor is sometimes that he is not competent enough; and what is competence without the money? Once he is given the money as the alien contractor, you will see he will be as competent. He will use the money to employ competent heads and competent workers and he will be quite as competent as any alien contractor. Even a man like me, not knowing anything about contract, give me the money that is given to the alien contractor, and I think I will be able to be as efficient (*Loud applause*).

That is one way in which we can economise and in that respect I am pointing out to the Government that the policy should be more money in and less money out. That is the policy of every Government in the world. There should be more money coming into the country and less money going out of the country. If we give the building contracts to our own people the money will remain with us and will circulate in this country and will not get out of this country. But when we give contracts to aliens the money will go out of the country and the country becomes impoverished. More money in, less money out should be the policy of this Government. As far as possible let less money get out of the country then this country will become richer and richer for the various things that we need in our independence.

In short, I am asking that when the time comes expenditure on Defence should be made much higher and also there should be considered some expenditure on shipping. I do not

see any Federal shipping. What will happen if our shipping gets cracked? What will happen if the foreign shipping companies strike? What will happen with our exports? The country will become very poor.

**The Chairman:** Will the hon. Member kindly note that there is no provision for shipping under this Head. He should not discuss what is not in the Head.

**Mr Okereke:** I quite agree, Mr Chairman, but I am saying there should be something about shipping. We must do something and we ought to do something.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare:** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to say that if there is nothing in the programme of this Government that should commend itself to all the sides of this House certainly you will agree with me that it is the Economic Programme of the Government. As is stated in this Head, it is an indication that the Government has got its plans most sincerely put down for the economic development of this country. The items are self-explanatory and they cover nearly all the fields of our economy. The development projects cannot be fulfilled if the thesis that has been postulated by the last speaker is going to be followed making the Government a savings bank institution instead of spending what is expected to be spent for the development of the country.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very few points.

**An hon. Member:** A bankrupt Government.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare:** We are not running a bankrupt company: we are talking about our economic programme.

I would like to mention the item under Head 605 (8)—Federal Loans Board. The idea of establishing a Federal Loans Board to subsidise small industrial projects in the country is something that should commend itself to all sides of this House. That is expected to give such assistance to people, irrespective of their class or political leanings or distinction, and I am happy to say that both the Chairman of the Board and the Members have demonstrated it by awarding such loans to people only for the establishment and improvement of the

industrial projects and not questioning their political leanings, as is done somewhere that we all know very well.

Another point I would like to mention is the Central Lagos Slum Clearance Scheme. I am sure that all those who had accused this Government of initiating this programme will agree with us in a very short time that it is not meant to dispossess land-owners but that it is meant to improve Lagos and make it a Capital of the Federation of Nigeria worthy of its standing.

Next I would like to mention the reclamation of South-East Ikoyi, but before I do that I would like to say that I and the other Members of the Delta Province are very happy to see that the sum of £100,000 is earmarked for the new dockyard in the Delta Province. We hope that without bringing in the question of shipping which an hon. Member was worried about, he should know that we have to start from the beginning, we have to lay the foundation. The erection of a dockyard is the beginning of our shipping possibilities and if our sons are properly trained and become engineers and navigators, there is no gainsaying the fact that in future they will do greater things in the shipping world.

I now turn to the question of the reclamation of Ikoyi which has been put forward by the energetic and indefatigable Minister of Land, Mines and Power. That reclamation is done for the improvement of housing schemes in Lagos and it is not meant for only Europeans or a class of people. It is meant for all and sundry and anybody who has the necessary funds could go to Ikoyi, get a piece of land, build his house and remain there. That is to show that this Government is also thinking progressively.

But a point I would like to make is that while we are thinking about developing Lagos and trying to build super-structures that will beautify this cosmopolitan community, many people feel that the Ministers must continue to stay in ramshackle buildings and many views have been expressed that Ministers ought to stay in hired houses. A particular newspaper had gone out of its way to take the picture of Ministers' houses in their different homes and publish it to show what sort of buildings the Ministers had before. I am not going to comment on that but I am going to say this, that this Government is not prepared to hire houses for Ministers.

For instance, in the Western Region a Minister draws a housing allowance with caretaker's allowance of about £540 a year. That shows you that if a Minister builds his own house and draws £500 from Government every year, in ten years he would have drawn £5,000 and the cost of his building would have been paid for from public funds and yet his building becomes his own property. We do not want to have that 'penny wise pound foolish' policy, and that is why we have decided to build Ministers' quarters that will befit not the dignity of the Ministers but the dignity of the capital of the Federation of Nigeria.

This argument is reinforced by the former Minister of Land, the hon. Mr J. F. Odujo, in the Western Regional Legislature when the Western Regional Government had wanted to increase salaries and they were criticised by the Opposition. I shall read, with your permission, Sir, what the hon. Odujo said. I am happy my friend Mr Dosunmu is here and he will carry it to the Members of the Opposition who have been vehemently criticising us and who are conspicuously absent this morning.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East):** Point of order, Sir. Obviously the Minister is utterly irrelevant. There is no question of Ministerial buildings under this Head.

**The Chairman:** The Minister of Labour.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare:** With your permission I will read. This is what the hon. Odujo said and I want hon. Members to listen. "Mr Chairman, it is most regrettable that in discussing this very important matter of the increase in Ministers' salaries many of our friends on the Opposition side have allowed personal prejudices and party antagonism to blind their vision to the real point at issue. The hon. Mr Olumofin has gone so far as to threaten when we were discussing this matter last Saturday, that he would reveal the salary every individual Minister had been receiving when he was a private man. Unfortunately Mr Olumofin in threatening to reveal salaries forgot that a man's salary is not conditioned to the look of his face but it is according to the status and dignity of the office he is supposed to hold. What we are asked to discuss, Mr Chairman, is the principle that will justify the increase of Ministers' salaries". He goes further: "If to-day some of our

Ministers are men who, according to Mr Olumofin, are known to be receiving poor salaries when they were private persons, what are we going to do to attract first-class people who, in the estimation of Mr Olumofin, would have been receiving fat salaries as professional men before they became Ministers?"

And hear what Mr Akintola answered: "In opposing the amendment I see no iota of logic at all. Comparisons are said to be odious but comparisons are unavoidable for the purpose of maintaining the proper balance." He was making comparisons about the condition of service of Ministers elsewhere and Ministers here. And so when we say we are building for the Ministers in the Capital; we are certainly not building for the persons of the Ministers who are in office now but we are building for posterity; we are building super-structures that will remain for ever and beautify the Capital City of this Federation, and I want to say, Sir, that when we leave the ministerial position—and we are not the type of politician who will continue in office for ever—we feel that, when we leave here, and other people come and this country becomes free, that when we invite Ministers from other free countries, they should not come and find the Ministers of Nigeria staying in ramshackle buildings.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba):** Mr Chairman, I congratulate the Government for the bold step they have taken under Education. I see about £246,000 earmarked for Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, and also £200,000 for University College Ibadan. . . . no doubt that this money is. . . .

**The Chairman:** I am sorry to interrupt but would Mr Ubani-Ukoma speak a little louder. It is, I think, a bad part of the Chamber there: it is difficult to hear him. If he would speak louder I would be most grateful.

**Mr Ubani-Ukoma:** I say that I congratulate the Government for the bold step they have taken in trying to provide funds for the extension of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and also of the University College, Ibadan. There is one thing I would like to add: we want results because many of our boys travel from these shores to the United Kingdom and other universities in the world, and some of them remain longer in those overseas institutions than they would have to remain had they had sufficient preparation here and I think that these two Institutions

should be able to supply all the necessary grounding to ensure that these students spend the minimum time abroad.

Every Member will realise that the money that we spend in this country for our children to acquire additional knowledge from that which can be obtained locally really comes under "insensible" imports—"insensible" imports in that the knowledge they acquire comes to this country but there is no physical article that is imported.

Some of our boys remain in the United Kingdom technical institutes for two years before they are allowed to enter the universities but I am sure that these two Institutions will be able to give them all they need so that the period of their stay overseas could be appreciably shortened. And I am asking that every effort should be made to see to it that these Institutions are expanded: they should be expanded in Zaria, Enugu and Ibadan and there is no reason why University College Ibadan should not be expanded to take these boys who are always clamouring to go to the United Kingdom for further studies.

Nobody should misunderstand me by saying that I do not want people to go to the United Kingdom. It is very nice for people to go and acquire more knowledge, more culture, and come back to this country and help us. What I mean is, if we can arrange it so that they spend less time there, it will be more profitable to this country.

The next point I want to raise is the underwriting of the shares of the Nigerian Cement Company. Well, this is also a very good plan, a bold plan, for the Government to have undertaken. But one thing I want to say is that the time has come when we should have sufficient cement produced in this country. We keep on scheming and planning and yet we import more cement year in, year out. The time has come when we should have cement produced in this country and there will be no grumbling if a large sum of money is being used to subsidise or to help the company experimenting on cement production.

Now I want to say the last thing in this Estimate is semi-permanent and temporary buildings under Police. I am very sorry to say that Police Department has not been well treated anywhere, particularly in my home. I do not know why the people in the Force should be provided with these semi-permanent

buildings. If you are going to spend such a large sum of money as £100,000, why not employ some contractors who will construct more permanent structures? I do not see the economy in this. The Police Department has come to stay: I do not see any reason why such a large sum of money should be expended only to provide for semi-permanent buildings. I know that if this sum of money is given to African contractors they will be able to provide something that is in the neighbourhood of permanent.

The last thing I want to say is: when you look through this Head 605—and if you have time to work it out and see the aggregate expenditure—you see that all these things are concentrated on Lagos: everything Lagos, Lagos, Lagos. Now, I do not see any reason why people in the rural areas should not have some sort of development and I am totally against all concentration on Lagos. Perhaps I am just saying this to deaf ears, but I want to remind the Government that next year I am asking them most earnestly to shelve some of this development on Lagos and leave us more money for the rural areas.

M. Baba Danbappa (North East Central Kano): I support this Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure—and I would like to point out to the Government what I think would be right: Sub-head 10 (1)—Central Lagos Slum Clearance Scheme—I think what the Government ought to do is to give more money under this sub-head.

Everybody will agree, who knows Lagos, that at the present time conditions are quite appalling in the slum areas and people will agree that nobody wants this slum clearance scheme but, after it is done, people will appreciate what the Government has done for them.

When you consider the houses in which the people of the slum areas live, I think it is only right to agree that the Government must do something about it and, if the Government does clear these areas, it must have the foresight to decide now upon its (the Government's) future building requirements and take advantage of this cleared land in order to build Government offices. At the moment the Government is renting property and I think this is costing too much money.

We cannot go on increasing the revenue of other people who are strangers in this country—everybody knows what I am talking about—at

the expense of the Africans. This Government is our own and I think if the Government knows what offices it requires and tries to build these offices, in the slum cleared areas it will save a lot of tax-payers' money.

We are the guardians of this money, and we ought to do everything that can be done. I would therefore like the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to use his influence, and try to investigate how much land the Government requires, and try to negotiate with the present land-owners, and if it comes to acquiring the land compulsorily, well then I think the Government is right in doing so, to build the offices that Government requires and so save unnecessary expense.

Mr Chairman I support.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise only to speak for a few moments about the Navy. I was very pleased to find an unexpected ally this morning in Mr Okereke, because I have rather feared that the House would think that I would ask for too much money, rather than that I would ask for too little. But when I spoke in the Debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I told the House that I proposed to consult the Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic and South America, who was arriving in Lagos that very day with the Cruiser H.M.S. *Ceylon*. I also told the House that we had the beginnings of a very good naval base in the old port engineering depot at Apapa, and that from that we could make an excellent start.

I am very glad to be able to tell the House that Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Robson, the Commander-in-Chief, went to see the base and was very well pleased with it, and thought that good use was being made of the site and that good work was being done there, although he appreciated that we were merely making a beginning.

Now, his praise is worth having, because not only is he a very distinguished sailor, but he is one who achieved great fame during the war, in command of destroyers and other small craft of the Royal Navy, and he is very well able to advise us on the management of that particular part of our affairs. He gave me two pieces of basic advice. He said, "The best form of initial training is training ashore." And the second is, that the most useful contribution that

Nigeria can make to the defence of the free world is the training of seamen. Because naval craft, which are very expensive, become obsolete even more quickly than do men, so that if you have trained men, when war comes you can put them to serve in whatever ships there may be available to you.

Now, from that it follows that our first and most essential duty is to get the base at Apapa well organised, and the training on sound lines, and I think any hon. Member who goes over there will agree that that start has been made.

But the Admiral recognises our need to get, as quickly as possible, naval craft in which more advanced training can be given, and which will be of such a type that Nigerians will be able to take pride and satisfaction in having them, and that will be of such a type that they will make a useful contribution to defence, without diverting our efforts; because, as the hon. Mr Okereke told us, although he would like to see more money spent on defence he told us that the money must be wisely spent, and we must have an eye to this prospective Economy Officer that he is going to get for us.

Sir, when I spoke to the House before, I said that the Government's proposal was to acquire a new type of craft called "Seaward Defence Boats", which are the latest type of small craft joining the Royal Navy, but they are exceedingly expensive and very complex. Each one of them costs £½ million and there would be some delay in getting them. The Admiral, having come here and seen for himself our coast and its problems, does not advise that we should acquire craft of that kind. As he says, in war time it is not very likely that an enemy would send submarines off our coast that would lie in wait there for long periods, on the chance of torpedoing a ship coming in or going out from Nigerian ports. It would be very much more economical of their time and effort to send a submarine which would lay mines off our ports and which would probably sink just as many ships and cause as great a havoc and cause us considerable uncertainty and disquiet of mind.

So, he says the first thing that we must train ourselves to do is, in the vivid expression he used to me, "To be able to sweep our own doorstep." He suggests that we acquire mine-sweeping craft to begin with. They will be useful in their defensive purpose but they will also be useful in giving our men

training afloat. As I said, all Naval craft are very expensive and I think it may interest the House to know that a cruiser of the same kind, not exactly the same type but the same kind, of ship as the *Ceylon*, which was in here two weeks ago, has just been re-commissioned and re-fitted, not built but merely refitted, and lent to the New Zealand Navy, and the cost of the refit was £4 million. So that the ship itself, to build new, would be something like £10 million.

It is obvious that we cannot buy many of these just yet but what I am hoping the Admiral may do for us is this—he knows our need, he has seen it for himself, and I hope that through his good offices, we will be able to get from the Admiralty ships that are suited to our purse, that is to say, if he could get them for us on free loan, that would be splendid, if he could get them for us where we have to pay something towards them, that would be not so bad. If he could only get them where we had to pay what can be called the "market price" for them, then I do not think we would be able to afford many. But he will certainly do all he can for us; and so, in the meantime, I am unable to make any definite statement to the House about the type of craft we will acquire but I do hope that the House will provide this money which will be immediately available for the purchase of such craft as we can get on terms that are suited to us.

Now, Sir, there are only two other points that I want to make that have arisen in the course of the Debate this morning. One hon. Member said that the Police are not very well treated anywhere and he thought it wasteful to build semi-permanent and temporary buildings. There is a great deal in what he says Sir but, on the other hand, it is equally wasteful to spend more money on permanent buildings if we cannot supervise the construction and so forth and ensure that good value is given for them. Now there are so many demands for not only improving the housing of the existing Police but for the establishment of new Police detachments, that the building of these buildings cannot be done all at once. Now some of the money that has been voted under this Head that we discussed this morning, has been used for the purpose of prefabricated buildings and in some places they have been a great success and have fulfilled a great need.

In other places they have been less successful but the House can be assured that the Government is not going to spend more money on semi-permanent buildings to house a Detachment of Police that are likely to be there permanently, than it can possible help. So that the hon. Member who raised the point can feel assured that the Government is watching that.

The only other thing I want to say, Sir, is this, and that is to apologise to the House. I think nearly two weeks ago, I answered a question put by the hon. Mr Abii about the creation of a Police post at Mbaise in Owerri and told him that we did not intend to go ahead with the construction of the buildings for a post there. I am very sorry, Sir, that I was misinformed and that, in consequence, I misinformed the House. With the money that the House voted under the Police Head of Estimates, we shall be able to provide the men for a detachment at Mbaise and we hope to get ahead with the construction of the buildings during this coming financial year.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu):** Mr Chairman, I rise to speak on sub-head 3, item 1: Expansion of Broadcasting. Under this item, Sir, the total sum of £128,000 has been voted for the expansion of broadcasting. In my opinion, Sir, this money is insufficient.

**The Chairman:** Could the hon. Gentleman speak as loudly as he can? I am afraid that his remarks are not quite reaching the Official Reporters.

**Mr Chukwu:** I was saying, Sir, that this sum of £128,000 voted is insufficient for the following reasons.

I know that the extension of rediffusion services to big towns as well as to small ones is included in this scheme, but the facilities are only being provided for the urban towns and a few smaller but important towns. Many a time in this House Members have sought the improvement of rural areas. When we refer to the improvement of rural areas we also include the extension of rediffusion services to those areas.

People in the rural areas want radio rediffusion services; they want to know what is going on in the country. In a town like Owerri there is the Shell D'Arcy Petroleum Company, there are the Police and other

establishments, and I think, Sir, that Owerri deserves rediffusion services. In Awgu township they also have the Police, the Administration, Colleges and so on and so forth, as in places like Oji River and Awka.

Therefore, Sir, more money should be voted for this item of expenditure because what is good for the goose is good for the gander. I appeal to the Minister in charge of Broadcasting to ensure that people in the rural areas receive such amenities as rediffusion services. They want to hear all the news that there is no less than people in the bigger towns.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City):** Mr Chairman, Sir, my remarks will be very few indeed. I just wish to show my appreciation to the Government in the way they have planned their economic programme and also to drive a point home. In all economic planning anywhere in any part of the world, it is very necessary that research is given a great deal of emphasis. We all know very well why research must be given a great deal of emphasis. We want to emphasize research and to see that Government allocates a substantial amount of money for that work, because it is from this research that we will be able to find out the type of crops that may suit our country, what we are going to do in order to improve upon our cash crops, what we have to do in order that our food crops may yield more and the yield may be better and, therefore, the quality improved.

Now, in this respect therefore, it follows automatically that if our research is successful and we are able to produce more cash crops of better quality, and in better quantity, then we would be able to get our cash crops to fetch more money from all parts of the country, thereby increasing the revenue of the country, and that is what we are all after. That is why in all Economic Planning in the United States of America, in England and in all other places at the initial stage large sums of money are voted for research work.

I would therefore ask and appeal to the Federal Government of Nigeria to increase the revenue under this particular head so that the Research Department may go ahead with research work in order that our crops may yield better and in greater quantity.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to make a remark on primary school education. Sir, in the Estimates under this Head, Sub-head 5, you will find nothing about teachers. Everything is being said about building schools and expansion and what not. Last year in this House we had an unfortunate discussion when the Government accepted a minority report on the salary of teachers of voluntary agency schools. There had been a Motion put up for that, up till now that Motion has not been debated and I think it may not come up for debate during this sitting of the House.

I am suggesting that the money put on this Head, in this section, is not enough if the teachers have not been taken into consideration in order to see that the remuneration for the teachers who are going to educate the children in these primary schools is made adequate. I here now ask the Government to reconsider what was done last year, to take the report of the committee set up and refuse the minority report.

My second point goes to support what my hon. Friend Mr D. N. Chukwu has said about Broadcasting. I hesitate indeed to mention something about Owerri at this moment because I have considered it a kind of conspired plan to neglect Owerri Division. I sincerely had demanded a categorical statement from the Council of Ministers, the Government as a whole, to let us know why Owerri Division is always put behind. I hope Mr Speaker will be kind enough to recognise me when we shall be debating the White Papers coming on Monday.

But at present I want to emphasise that if Government is not willing now to instal electricity in Owerri Division and Broadcasting is for the people, and Owerri Division is the most thickly populated division in the Region, will the Government advise now that money be made available in time for introducing broadcasting in Owerri Division? Rediffusion should come to Owerri Division so that the people who are living there will know what is happening.

I think the Minister will take that into mind. Whether you instal electricity at once, or not—extend the Rediffusion Services to Owerri Division now. That is the place where you have the people, and this service is for the

people, and I think it is but simple truth that broadcasting service should be extended to Owerri Division as soon as possible.

With these points, I support the Head.

**M. Bello Dandago** 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.*

*Resolved,* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Six Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 605.—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

#### HEAD 601—LOANS

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation (Mr F. D. C. Williams):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey):** Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I can understand the attitude of the Members with regard to this Head. They don't know that there is something here that is of great interest to this House—that is sub-head 4, item 2, Nigeria-Hotels Limited, Now, Sir, Nigeria Hotels Limited is what we used to call the Nigerian Railway Caterers. Now, this Government has a share in it, the Railway Corporation have a share in it and also the Northern Regional Government. Well, Members may not know that it is this company now, which is a public company, that has acquired the Catering Rest House in Ikoyi and all the person there. But, Sir, I want to call the attention of the Council of Ministers to the state and the conditions of the employees of that public company. The workers there are not well treated at all, and there are too many expatriates there feeding fat. It is a public company. I want the Ministers to examine the condition of this company with a view to remedying the conditions of the workers there.

These people go on leave without the company making provision for their transport. That is very bad.

And again, Sir, I remember when the case of this company trying to buy the property in Ikoyi came to the Finance Committee, we turned down the proposal because we wanted to see the state of the accounts. Later on, Sir, somehow without producing these accounts to the Finance Committee, the company persuaded the Council of Ministers to approve their taking over the property. We wanted the property to be on leasehold but to-day they own that. The result is that we have no more control over them. The state of the accounts is terrible—all losses, losses, losses, and we would like the Ministers to examine these accounts of the Nigeria Hotels Limited. This Government holds, I think, about 41 per cent of the share capital; the Railway Corporation holds a portion of it and I think the Northern Regional Government has about £10,000 shares there. So this is of particular interest to us. And we noticed, Sir, that at one time the dwellers in Ikoyi were using this place as a place for economy. Then the Finance Committee decided that they must charge economic fees for services rendered. I sincerely hope that that is going on.

I have already made a speech in connection with the Electricity Corporation. But, Sir, I would like the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to tell us what has happened with this Surulere Rehousing Scheme—sub-head 2, item 1. Sir, moneys were voted sometime ago and some of us in the Finance Committee went and visited the place at the initial stage, but I am sure many members do not know the present stage of development of the Housing Scheme. I would like the Minister to tell us exactly what has happened because I understand, Sir, that the single-room houses have been found by some of the dwellers there not as comfortable as was thought. Perhaps the Minister would consider re-designing this particular site when putting up new buildings. We know that at the initial stage mistakes must be made but we learn by experience.

If the Minister investigates and finds that that is correct, some attempt should be made to re-design this room so as to be more commodious for the inhabitants of that area because we don't want within a few years to find another slum area developing there—when attempt is

made to clear a slum and then you suddenly discover that the whole effort of the Minister has been frustrated by a new slum in a concrete building. I think that is all I have to say in this.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Four Million; Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1957-58, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

*Resolutions to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Resolutions reported.*

*Resolved:* That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

### Motion

#### DEVELOPMENT FUND, 1957

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation** (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That this House approves the appropriation into the Development Fund on the 1st of April, 1957, of all that part of the General Revenue Balance in excess of Five Million Pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1957.

Sir, this is the resolution which I said I would be moving when I was introducing the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The effect is to transfer into the Development Fund where it can be used for financing capital expenditure, the windfall surplus on account of the financial year that is just ending. This matter was discussed at some length during the Budget Debate, and I do not think the House will wish me to go over the same ground again.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House approves the appropriation into the Development Fund on the 1st of April, 1957, of all that part of the General Revenue Balance in excess of Five Million Pounds as at the close of business on the 31st day of March, 1957.

### Adjournment

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking on the Motion for the Adjournment, I would like to raise a matter of public interest, which concerns the lives of people at Bar Beach and beyond Cowric Creek Bridge. The only people who will agree with me, are those who have been there. There are a lot of people who go there, Sir, for an evening stroll and to enjoy themselves; the lives of those people are now at stake.

Yesterday I experienced a sad thing. I went down to the Beach with my car about 9 p.m. and stopped. I saw two people, hooligans, highway robbers, who man-handled me; they beat me up and despite the hue and cry I raised, there were no police to come and protect me. These people stole all my possession.

Sir, I am saying that this is a very serious thing, and if something is not done very soon, you will find that people have been beaten up and thrown into the sea.

I am appealing, therefore, to the House and more especially to the Chief Secretary to do something about this matter immediately. I would appeal that the Chief Secretary should cause police to be positioned there to protect the lives of the people who not only live there, but go there for their evening's enjoyment.

This is really a very important matter, and is all I wish to raise on the adjournment, Sir.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano Urban Area): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of grave concern, which affects every hon. Member in this House, and which affects all the people living in Lagos, and visitors to Lagos. It is something about which we must think seriously and we appeal to the Government to do something about it at once, because as has been said the lives of the people are at stake.

The other day, somebody was telling me something similar to what the hon. Member who has just spoken has related. In this case, Sir, the man, I believe an alien, went out late at

night about 9 o'clock with his wife. It was in fact very inhuman. He was held up by some people and his wife taken from him.

**Several hon. Members:** Shame, shame! is a bad thing!

**M. Maitama Sule:** This is terrible indeed. If it is an allegation then it is a very serious allegation, and something must be done to prevent man's inhumanity to man. This sort of thing can only be done by what I can describe as the irresponsible waste products of humanity. It is important that Government should take steps to prevent these people going there only to disturb others and stop them from enjoying the sea breeze.

After all, we are all human beings, Sir, and we need some relaxation, and one of the places to which we can go to have that, is Victoria Beach, and if it is not safe to go there, I don't know where else we can go. So let the Government step in and remedy this situation immediately.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): I had intended to bring a Motion yesterday on this subject, Sir, to tell the House of two experiences I have had when visiting Bar Beach.

Last Saturday and yesterday I met with this situation, which is a source of annoyance not only to me but to others as well. Cars travelling over the bridge are not properly controlled; the traffic light there is not working well, and there are no police to direct the cars. You will find cars attempting to cross the bridge at the same time from either end, which means that some of them have got to reverse, which causes further obstruction.

I would therefore appeal to this House that something is done about this matter, and police are posted there to direct and control the traffic as early as possible.

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Mr Speaker, Sir, I know that from time to time there have been incidents at Bar Beach of a kind that one must deplore wherever they occur, but I had no idea that they were as grave, or as frequent as this small debate suggests. I am very sorry indeed to hear of the indignities, if not worse, that have been offered to hon. Members and I do sympathise very much with this because I fear it is a sad fact in Lagos that for visitors to the town there is no-where they can go

for a change of air, and particularly at this very hot season of the year. Unless one goes down to Victoria Beach there is no place that one can go for a breath of air and a change of scenery. So that I quite agree that there is an obligation on the police to see that this place is well patrolled, even though it is used for purposes of pleasure rather than for commerce or business.

One of the difficulties, of course, is that it is an area of considerable size. Another is, of course, that in the evening when a lot of people go down there it is not well lit, which makes the task of the police more difficult, but no doubt makes the task of these hooligans very easy. Although it is a difficulty, it is not a difficulty that is impossible to overcome. There is a small police post at Victoria Beach, the strength of which is normally one N.C.O. and four men.

The House has approved provision in next year's Estimates to increase the number of police and I will, in consultation with the Inspector-General and the Commissioner in charge of this Region, see what can be done to improve the policing of that area, if not by strengthening the detachment that is permanently there, perhaps by some system of mobile patrols.

As to Chief Onyia's complaint about the bridge, I sympathise very much with that. I used to go to Victoria Beach myself at times, and have found it very tedious going over that bridge. That is not all: unfortunately the road is in very bad repair and continues to be so. Well, the difficulty there, Sir, is that until the development of the Victoria Beach area starts, no authority can be found who will be whole-heartedly enthusiastic about keeping up, or improving such facilities as there are now.

The bridge needs replacing. The road, which I am told is the only road in the whole of Nigeria that leads right to the sea, is very badly in need of repair, but the first call on the available funds not only of the Government but of the Local Authority concerned always is (and I suppose quite rightly) for those matters that are of direct economic benefit; and I think that my Colleague, the Minister of Land, Mines and Power, will be very pleased when the day comes when he can get some money from the Government for the development of the whole of that area.

At the same time, Sir, we are reminded from time to time, and were even reminded only this morning, that we spend far too much on Lagos. But I am afraid hon. Members cannot have it both ways. I am told by my Colleague, the Financial Secretary, that if one investigates this matter thoroughly (and I speak subject to his correction) one finds that Lagos, if derivation is the test for the allocation of revenue (and I know it is not a test which is universally popular, but it is a test which is in use in part in our revenue allocation system) that Lagos has not had spent on it as much as it should have had. However, Sir, this is not the occasion to go into the intricacies of revenue allocation, but I do hope, Sir, that before very long we will be able to improve the amenities on Victoria Beach.

I have to be very careful what I say about this as there are certain shifting sands into which I must not venture, because I think that one of my Colleagues has already been accused in the course of the meeting of this House of allowing the Territory of the Federation to be stolen away from him through negligence, and that this place we are talking about is gradually disappearing into the sea. The only consolation I can offer, and it is a consolation which is more appropriate to the people who are not here (*referring to absent Opposition Members*) than the people who are, is that what the Federal Territory of Lagos loses, the Western Region is gaining, so I am told, as the sand is washed up a little further along the Beach.

The automatic light control, Sir, is a great improvement and it is a great improvement not only on that very difficult bridge, but at the corner of the Broad Street, where it is also in use. But like all these electrical contrivances, they do suffer very much from local conditions and they do break down from time to time; but I will see, in consultation with the Lagos Town Council, if anything can be done to improve that. I will take up with the Police the better patrolling of the whole area, if not as I said by strengthening the detachment, then by the provision of some mobile patrol, and I hope, Sir, that before many years pass the whole of that area will be vastly improved; it will have better access and will be a credit to the country as well as a pleasant place in which hon. Members can spend their leisure time. (*Loud applause.*)

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to say something on this Ministers' houses which the hon. the Minister of Labour and Welfare had commented upon this morning. I wish to do so in order to nail once and for all the idea that people should try to misdirect the public on a matter which could be properly presented without prejudice or rancour.

Mr Speaker, I admit that the right to criticise is a sacred weapon in a democracy. Any attempt to suppress or challenge this right must be ruthlessly fought to a standstill. However, criticisms are of two kinds: constructive and destructive. The former aims to secure a change, a reform or to reconsider a subject in the light of new facts which might not have been thought of when a decision on a subject was taken. It may also lead to the obtaining of information which was not immediately available when a decision leading to a matter was taken. It serves as an opportunity to give new knowledge or to correct wrong impressions. The latter, meaning destructive criticism, is employed for vindictive purposes; to ridicule, to bring some one or institution, be it government or a corporate body, to public ridicule or contempt.

Let me make this allowance that those who first raised the subject of Ministers' houses did so in good faith. It will then be for the Government to note and act on the criticisms or to correct any misinformation that may present itself.

The Action Group brought no new knowledge to the subject, but launched a destructive attack on the Government. In the face of this, no government can be silent or be passive when the public is being misinformed by the same group who are a party to the matter under consideration. This rank hypocrisy must be arrested without delay. (*Loud applause.*) The treachery of this group must be exposed now. (*Loud applause.*)

For the second time the acts of the Ministers have been so grossly misrepresented. The first was on the Ministers' salaries, and now it is the Ministers' houses. The Ministers' salaries were so extensively advertised and commented upon, that at one time it appeared as if the heavens might fall. With the publication of the Gorsuch recommendations for the

revision of salaries in the Public Services of Nigeria, it became evident that increases in the Ministers' salaries were less than 5 per cent, while Gorsuch increased emoluments of certain classes ranging from 20 per cent to 65 per cent. The Federal Government is the only Government in the whole Federation where there is a difference of salary among members of the same Cabinet. In other words, Ministers are not on the top of the super-scale grades. Thus the first onslaught on the Ministers became a hope-less failure on the part of those who raised the alarm. These alarmists, be they public organs or individuals, were not honest enough to come back to the public they misled and apologise for misleading it. (*Hear, hear.*) Time proved them wrong. The first grievous stab failed.

**An Hon. Member**: Decamped.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation**: They will always be decamped.

Now it is the Ministers' houses. This misdirection will again be punctured, and the lying tongue and the deceitful will be exposed.

One thing is glaringly clear; there are elements of psychological inferiority present in most of the criticisms. We claim ability for self-government, and have proclaimed this to all the world. There can be no doubt that many among us are still possessed with colonial mentality of inferiority complex. There is a theory still persistent among some African elements that any person other than an African, be he Tom or Dick or Harry, can be entitled to anything, but if he is an African, No! This debunked mentality must not be allowed to persist in this territory of Nigeria. (*Hear, hear.*) No government can afford to abrogate or surrender its responsibility to lead its people just because there exists among its citizens some who have been paralysed by the canker-worm of the past, and are unable to adapt themselves to the changing tide in human affairs.

The Ministers' houses have been made an issue. This party now stands to be exposed. The Federal Government, in addition to the Ministers' houses, is also providing a new building for the Chief Secretary of the Federation. The Chief Secretary is a Cabinet member, responsible for External Affairs. He receives hosts of visitors on behalf of this Government. It is imperative that his official

dwelling-place must reflect the status of Nigeria in world affairs to-day. (Loud applause.) Who can dispute this?

Several hon. Members : Nobody.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The Action Group was represented on the Finance Committee which approved this building, and also approved the Ministers' houses. The Action Group with its ally has two members on this Committee. The N.C.N.C. also has two members. The Action Group was therefore a party to the whole building transaction. This is just a statement of fact, and I have no intention of begging the issue.

I challenge the Opposition to say when it received the mandate from the Nigerian people that Ministers should live in inferior buildings to those provided for the people who serve under them. The fact that Nigeria accepted ministerial system does not mean that Civil Servants must vacate their quarters for Ministers. These people are entitled to comfort if we must generate efficiency. I challenge the Opposition to disclose any mandate from the people of Nigeria that its Ministers, who form the first core of the nation's standard-bearers, are not entitled to accommodate guests in their houses. I challenge the Opposition to disclose any mandate from the people of Nigeria that the Parliamentary Secretaries, when appointed, should not be provided with houses.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. When I was given notice that this subject was to be raised by the hon. Minister he did not tell me that he was going to issue this challenge to the Opposition of which the Opposition can have no notice : practically none of them are there and I rather deprecate a series of challenges. To state the ministerial position is one thing but extremely contentious debate I think is another.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** With your permission, Mr Speaker, since the Opposition made the statement before the closing of this and since you have not made any ruling on the matter, I may take away the challenges but invite the Opposition at any time that you may wish either on the Adjournment to make their points which they have previously made. I think they have made the points before and if it will please you any time which

they want to make a reply to this they will be free to do so.

I am confident that the people of Nigeria, if clearly informed of the real purpose behind Ministers' quarters, will certainly rebuke the Opposition for making this matter a political issue.

The Ministers' houses are the property of the Federal Government, belonging to all the people of Nigeria. Ministerial appointment is not a special preserve of any one group or sect ; it is an entitlement for which any Nigerian citizen can aspire. The only new feature of the proposed Ministers' houses is that they will have a guest wing. This country will be startled to learn that in the present Ministers' houses, no provision is made for the Ministers' private or official guests. The house contains only two bedrooms. Is it conceivable that a Minister, who is a public servant in the right sense of the word, should be made to live a selfish life ? How can such a servant discharge his public responsibility if he lives secluded with his wife and children ?

It will shock the nation to know that when the Minister of Communications, the Hon. Casley Hayford from Ghana, visited me here as my official guest, Nigeria was unable to provide him with accommodation in my house (and yet when I was guest of Ghana people for their Independence Celebration the Minister of the Interior was able to provide me accommodation in his own dwelling house) ; we were compelled to hire a suite for him at the Mainland Hotel. Such a situation is uncharitable ; it is un-African. The situation is hopeless when a Minister cannot afford accommodation for his colleagues in the Regions or from outside Nigeria.

The work of a Minister does not end at his office desk ; the major part of his work is carried out in his residence. When a Minister accommodates a humble or a distinguished visitor either from inside Nigeria or from outside this country, it is Nigeria which offers that accommodation. That small area is the immediate Nigeria which the visitor sees, and many conclusions can be drawn from that single visit. In some circumstances, the result of a single visit, from the point of view of the benefit which this country gets in return, can underwrite the cost of putting up the entire Ministers' quarters.

Hospitality forms an indispensable part of all Government systems. All the Governments of the world strive to give it the highest priority. Her Majesty the Queen would not have visited Nigeria if our Government House was not suitable to accommodate her. In the long run, nations save thousands of pounds by foresight in planning.

**Mr Speaker,** I wish to draw your attention to the fact that rudiments of economic principles should have taught any opposition to this subject that the real wealth which any nation can boast of is its land and real estate, which we call property. Money accumulated in banks can be devalued overnight by force of international crises. £30,000 can overnight be devalued to £15,000. The mere flash of President Eisenhower's illness in June last year shook the United States and London Stock Markets. There were heavy sellings of securities until improvement in his health was reported.

**Mr Speaker :** It is very irrelevant to the subject of ministerial houses, or at any rate I think it is taking the subject beyond bounds of the Adjournment.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Yes, Mr Speaker, only a few months ago, the Suez Canal Zone crisis shook the foundation of the pound sterling, but for the timely action of the British Exchequer, the pound sterling would have lost its purchasing power. I am only trying to show, Mr Speaker, that we may argue on ministerial housing from very many angles but I am trying to put that the building programme of any government has a foundation of gilt-edged security from which that Government in time of economic crisis can use to borrow from the bank if it chooses for social services. For this, Mr Speaker, I am saying that this agitation of Ministers' houses has no real foundation. It is prejudicial and this Government has taken the right step to provide permanent buildings that will be secure and will last longer, and if this country will get its independence we will make certain that each building can accommodate visitors who will come here for such a celebration. (Applause.)

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope I can make a statement in connection with this question because I was a party to the decision—there is no need running from a fact. What pained me about the Leader of the Opposition's statement was that when this matter occurred I was his Deputy and Mr

Rosiji and myself were members of the Committee and, when he started making a statement, he did not consult my opinion, to know exactly what happened : until to-day he has never done so.

The matter was raised in Committee—in fact, the original plan was put forward and the Committee considered that they did not want to build a house and then, tomorrow, start another one—it would be a waste because the plan that was put up was supposed to be a Minister's quarters : £12,000—that was most inadequate.

The trouble is that most of those who criticise have never studied African social usage. Where Africans live—whether it is a bachelor, or a married man, or a single man, or a polygamist—you find that you have a large family system ; extensive family system which makes it incumbent on you to have accommodation for your relations : the first, second, third and fourth generations—if they come there, you have no right to let them go. It is not like U.K., where the family consists of myself, my wife and my children : in Nigeria the family means myself, my wife, my father, my mother, my brothers and sisters and so on (Applause). So that we are not viewing this purely from the European point of view : we are looking at it from the Nigerian point of view.

Now, Sir, as I mentioned, the first plan for the Chief Secretary's house was condemned by the Finance Committee. We said we wanted to put up a building, not necessary for the Chief Secretary, but for the future Prime Minister of this country ; so, if you look at that building, you will find that was not the original plan ; is not the original scheme that was put to the Finance Committee—that was the second one. And we did not actually approve £30,000 for each house : even if you look at the Estimates you find that it is not £30,000—they have magnified the figures. Our complaint, even in Committee, Sir, was that the estimate was rather too high ; we said that these houses could be produced for less but, owing to P.W.D. estimates, we do not understand the details ; that is why the cost was so high.

The particular point, Sir, is that—to be fair to Mr Rosiji—Mr Rosiji was not there on the day when the plan was officially passed. But Mr Rosiji was present on the day when the official minutes were ratified ; he was there and

he did not object to it. (*An hon. Member : He did !*) He did not ! Look at the Minutes ! I have studied the Minutes and he did not object. He was not there on the day when the plan was discussed but he was there when the Minutes were passed.

I had hoped that the Leader of the Opposition could have brought a substantive Motion on this subject, if he felt strongly on this point : the proper thing would have been to bring a substantive Motion to this House and not wait until twenty-five minutes before the moment of interruption to make his speech the other day—not allow this matter to pass on like that. I think that is what has necessitated the present statement. I still hope that Chief Akintola will be bold enough to put up a substantive Motion and let us argue this Motion in this House and take a decision. A coward cannot go behind and make a statement and run away !

That is the reason why I want to make this explanation as to why I was a party to this decision and I think, after the explanation, this nation will appreciate that, after all, we do not go there just to put up buildings for Ministers : we put up buildings for the nation. If we had the money, Sir, I know what I would suggest ; I know the type of building I would put up here, to honour the Federal Capital of Nigeria, so that anybody who comes here will look at the Federal Capital of Nigeria, and when he goes home, will say, "Yes, I have been to Nigeria ; I saw something—I saw something worthy of the name of that country". We are looking for independence and we do not want ramshackle buildings.

Money may be worth something but there is such a thing as prestige. Our people have not learnt that some of the wars that Great Britain has fought have been purely on prestige, not of any other benefit. The good name of this country is at stake and many Britishers have gone to die for nothing else but the prestige, honour and glory of their country.

But to-day we talk of pounds, shillings and pence ! We die for pounds, shillings and pence ! And the prestige and the glory of the nation—nobody wants to talk about it and that is how the politics of this country are dragged to such a low ebb that the sooner this House puts a stop to it the better !

I say, Sir—I am not challenging but I think the proper procedure is that my hon. Friend, Chief S. L. Akintola, if he feels strongly on this point, let him bring a substantive Motion on it and let us debate it—and I think the Government will be quite willing—and let him come and argue and, if he gets this House to agree with him, then we will know that the Finance Committee—the members who represent this House on that Committee—have made a mistake.

In connection with this, Sir, he made mention that the Finance Committee should be barred from taking a decision on any sum more than £300,000. Well, the Finance Committee has been taking decisions on millions of pounds. If that were done, it means that whenever the Government wanted to carry out a scheme that has been authorised by this House on money Head—with the authority given to the Finance Committee, if the Government wants money, the Committee should not have the power to approve it : and we know exactly what would happen if that were the case. Sometimes statements are made without considering the full consequences. Therefore, Sir, I would welcome a substantive Motion on this subject and let everybody have a chance to debate it.

*Question, That the House do now adjourn, put and agreed to.*

**Mr Speaker :** There will be a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at noon.

*Adjourned at three minutes to twelve o'clock until 10 a.m. on Monday, 25th March, 1957.*

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NIGERIA

*Monday, 25th March, 1957*

*The House met at 10 a.m.*

### PAPERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

### PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I have to announce that the following Papers have been delivered in the Office of the Clerk and are deemed to have been presented and laid on the Table :—

1. University College Hospital, Ibadan : Recurrent Costs (Sessional Paper No. 9)
2. Report on Education Development in Lagos.

### QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

*Question—*

\*O.181. Mr L. L. Lakunle asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

What efforts he is making to extend wired radio distribution services to the rural areas ?

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey) : I refer the hon. Member, so far as rural areas in the Western Region are concerned, to the speech that I made on March 12th in the Debate on a Private Member's Motion on Rediffusion Services. As I there explained, developments in that Region are the concern of Rediffusion (Nigeria) Limited. The Federal Government proposes to transfer its responsibility for wired broadcast distribution services in rural areas elsewhere in the Federation to the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation after April 1 next.

*Question—*

\*O.182. Mr L. L. Lakunle asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state the number of Africans and the number of expatriates who hold senior appointments in the Federal Civil Service ?

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** On the basis that "senior appointments" includes all posts in the executive and technical grades not lower than C. 2 and in the Nursing grade not lower than N. 4, in addition to superscale posts and posts in Scales A and B,

there are 1,228 Nigerians (of whom 1,195 are pensionable) and 1,521 expatriates (of whom 950 are pensionable) in senior appointments in the Federal Public Service.

*Question—*

\*O.223. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

What machinery exists by which the various Governments in the Federation resolve matters of common interest to themselves and the people of this great country.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** I would refer the hon. Member to paragraphs 31 to 36 of the White Paper on the Economic Programme of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1955-60 (Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956), in which full particulars are given of the machinery for consultation between the Governments in the Federation.

*Question—*

\*O.224. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state what are the duties of the Commissioner for Nigeria in the United Kingdom ; and how the Commissioner's services affect the progress and development of this Federation ?

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The Commissioner is the Head of the Nigeria Office in the United Kingdom, of which the principal functions are defined as follows :—

(a) The fostering of Nigerian trade and the expediting of supplies required in Nigeria.

(b) The maintenance of a service to provide information about Nigeria.

(c) The giving of such assistance in the recruitment of staff, additional to that provided by the Colonial Office and the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations, as may be required by the Government of the Federation or the Government of any Region or of the Southern Cameroons or by local authorities or other official bodies.

(d) Liaison with officials and unofficials whose duties or business relate to matters affecting the welfare of Nigeria.



(c) The provision of a central organisation through which Nigerians in the United Kingdom can be directed to the various agencies established for their benefit in the United Kingdom and through which the activities of those organisations can be co-ordinated.

(f) Arrangements for travel and accommodation of important visitors from Nigeria other than those dealt with by Regional Commissioners.

(g) All matters connected with Nigerian Students (other than those of the Western Region) in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic other than such placings in Universities and other courses as may continue to be the responsibility of the Colonial Office.

The effective discharge of these duties is in the interests of both the progress and the development of the Federation.

*Supplementary to Question \*O.224—*

**Chief E. O. Omolodun** (Oyo South) : How many Nigerians are in the secret and decoding branches of the Secretariat ?

**Mr Speaker** : That question has nothing to do with the Question on the Order Paper.

*Question—*

\*O.225. **Mr J. A. G. Ohiani** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state what proposals he has for granting study leaves in the United Kingdom to Nigerians serving in the Nigeria Police Force ?

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : Vacancies on training courses in the United Kingdom are regularly offered to members of the Nigeria Police Force. During 1956 thirty members of the Force, the majority of whom were Nigerians, attended courses in the United Kingdom. Study leave is not usually the most appropriate form of police training, but whenever necessary it is granted for specialist training not provided by the regular courses.

*Question—*

\*O.226. **Mr J. A. G. Ohiani** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware that the forty-five years age limit is unpopular to the majority of the members of the Nigeria Police Force ; and if he will take steps to reconsider that age limit ?

\*O.263. **Mr F. U. Mbakogu** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

Whether he is aware that the present age limit of forty-five years drives away many constables after completing the first six years and if he will consider reviewing the period of service to six years each in the first and second instances and nine years in the third.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : I will, with permission, answer this Question and Question No. 263 together.

There is no age limit of forty-five years in the sense of a maximum age for service in the Nigeria Police Force but I assume that both Questions refer to the provision that after a first period of enlistment a constable wishing to re-engage must undertake to serve until the age of forty-five.

I am aware that there may be disadvantages to the Force as a whole and to individual members of it in this provision of the present law and the question of amending it on the lines proposed by the hon. Mr Mbakogu is now under consideration. If the Government should decide that a change is desirable, the matter will be brought before the House in the form of a Bill for an Amending Ordinance.

*Question—*

\*O.227. **Chief E. O. Omolodun** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware that stage carriage lorries are barred by the Police from loading and off-loading goods in Lagos Island with the result that lorry owners suffer hardships, inconveniences, and loss of trade ; and if he will make a statement.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : Under the Control of Traffic (Lagos) Order, 1954, made under the Road Traffic Ordinance, 1947, stage and hackney carriages may enter Lagos Island for the purpose of picking up or setting down passengers only if the driver or owner of the vehicle is in possession of a permit issued for this purpose by the Lagos Town Council.

The terminal for stage and hackney carriages which are not covered by a permit is the Motor Park off Denton Causeway at Iddo.

Twenty-five permits effective from 1st January, 1957, have been issued by the Lagos Town Council.

I am not aware of any Police restriction barring lorries other than stage or hackney carriages from loading and off-loading goods in Lagos Island.

*Question—*

\*O.228. **Chief E. O. Omolodun** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state what is responsible for the present shortage of vehicle inspection officers which is causing the transport owners in the country a great loss of business.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : There are at present eight vacancies in the approved establishment of twenty-five Vehicle Inspection Officers. Efforts continue to be made to fill these posts with qualified men but even if the establishment were full, the number of officers is insufficient adequately to provide for the ever-increasing number of commercial vehicles being operated in Nigeria and the House recently considered in Committee of Supply draft Estimates for 1957-58 that provide for seven additional posts of Vehicle Inspection Officers, twenty-six new posts of Assistant Vehicle Inspection Officers and six additional rank and file.

*Supplementary to Question \*O.228.*

**Mr A. Rosiji** (Egba East) : Is the hon. Chief Secretary of the Federation aware of the fact that last year the Standing Committee on Finance approved the appointment of four Vehicle Instructor Officers, with the proviso that they should be Africans ? If he is, what has he done about it ?

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : I am not aware of that.

**Chief E. O. Omolodun** (Oyo South) : Is the post made attractive, and if so, what is the salary per annum ?

*Question—*

\*O.229. **Chief E. O. Omolodun** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will give the total number of vehicle inspection officers now in the Service, and of these the number that are Nigerians.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : There are at present seventeen Vehicle Inspection Officers in the Nigeria Police Force out of

an establishment of 25. None is a Nigerian, but I would refer the hon. Member to section 9 of the explanatory memorandum on Head 25 of the draft Estimates for 1957-58 for particulars of a scheme for training Nigerians to take over the duties of Vehicle Inspection Officers.

*Question—*

\*O.230. **Mr P. O. Eleke** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state how many more vehicle licensing stations have been established in the Eastern Region since last year pursuant to a law passed to that effect in view of the considerable delays experienced by car and lorry owners at licensing stations in the Region, particularly at Aba.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : None, Sir. I would add that all Regional Governments have agreed in principle that vehicle licensing is properly a Regional responsibility, and transfer of responsibility is expected to begin in one Region on the 1st of April.

I am not aware of any statutory provisions as to the number of vehicle licensing stations.

*Supplementary to Question \*O.230—*

**Mr A. Rosiji** (Egba East) : In which Region will it be ?

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : The Western Region.

*Question—*

\*O.231. **Mr P. O. Eleke** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state when work will commence on the erection of the long proposed police post in Southern Okigwi (Mbasa).

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** : I am not aware of any proposal to build a police post at Mbasa, but there is provision in the 1957-58 Estimates for a police detachment at Umu Duru in the Southern part of Okigwi Division, and I hope that it will be possible in the coming financial year to find the funds for the necessary buildings.

*Question—*

\*O.232. **Mr P. O. Eleke** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware that a section of the Police quarters at Okigwi is inadequate, ill-ventilated and outmoded; and if he will take steps to remedy this.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** I am aware that some of the police quarters at Okigwi are below the standard appropriate to the Nigeria Police Force.

One Inspector's quarter and ten Constables' quarters have already been built on a new site in Okigwi and it is intended as part of the Economic Programme, 1955-60, to replace the rest of the quarters which are below standard.

*Question—*

**\*O.252. Mr L. S. Fonka** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

In view of the programme of expansion of the Nigerian Military Forces, if he will take steps to set up a detachment of appropriate size of these Forces in the Southern Cameroons.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** I invite the attention of the hon. Member to my reply to the similar question, No. W.73, about the posting of a battalion to the Southern Cameroons, given at page 47, column 988 of the Official Report for the 18th of March. I would like to add to the reasons I gave on that occasion that it is militarily unsound to disperse small detachments at considerable distance from their parent units. Not only will such detachments be generally inadequate to deal with a serious emergency (when it is more effective to move a complete unit), but they are disproportionately expensive and involve considerable administrative and training difficulties.

*Question—*

**\*O.253. Mr L. S. Fonka** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he is aware that whilst at present there are facilities for giving military training to students in the secondary schools of each of the Regions, no such facilities are available in the Southern Cameroons; and if he will take steps to set up Officers' Training Corps in the two Boys' Secondary Schools in the Southern Cameroons.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** Sir, the General Officer Commanding, Nigeria Military Forces, and I both consider it desirable that there should be a Cadet Corps in the

Southern Cameroons. As I told the House in Committee of Supply on the 14th of March, when the Defence Head of Estimates was being considered, the principal difficulty is the distance from the nearest military unit (the Battalion stationed at Enugu), for, without the active and regular interest of serving officers, the chances of success are very limited no matter what efforts are devoted by the school authorities. Nor would it be easy to find an experienced Commanding Officer to raise and command the Corps. But the General Officer Commanding intends to discuss the matter with the Commissioner of the Cameroons in the hope of finding a solution.

*Question—*

**\*O.262. Mr F. U. Mbakogu** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he is aware that housing conditions for married and unmarried constables at Ijora and Ajayi Bembe Barracks are unsatisfactory; and if he will take immediate steps to house the constables comfortably, and, in the meantime, increase their present monthly inconvenience allowance.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** I am aware that the Ijora and Ajayi Bembe Police Barracks are overcrowded. Action is being taken to relieve the overcrowding.

In the meantime, rank and file in these and other Barracks where there is overcrowding are permitted to draw lodging allowance at rates varying with the degree of inconvenience to which they are temporarily subjected.

*Question—*

**\*O.264. Mr F. U. Mbakogu** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

Whether he is aware that the present Police uniform is unpopular both among the constables and the general public and if he is considering making alterations.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** Sir, I am not aware that the present Police uniform as a whole is unpopular either among the constables or among the general public, although I am aware of the interest taken by hon. Members and by the general public in any change in the uniform which might be proposed and I understand that some changes would be welcomed by the rank and file.

The Inspector-General has under consideration a number of minor changes in police uniform designed to make it smarter and yet more comfortable. Before he makes any firm recommendations for a change, he will test the opinion of the rank and file.

The hon. Member will appreciate that any drastic change in police uniform would involve heavy expenditure unless it were introduced gradually over a long period.

*Supplementary to Question \*O.264—*

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot Ekpene): Is the Chief Secretary aware that during the Inspector-General's last tour of the Eastern Region, police constables all over the Region pointed out to him the unpopularity of the berets, which is not preferred? What is wanted is the old cap that used to be worn.

*Question—*

**\*O.275. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he will state how many members of the Bands of the Nigeria Police Force, and the Queen's Own Regiment have been offered scholarships for courses in music overseas.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** No member of either band has been offered a scholarship for a course in music overseas, but two Nigerian Other Ranks will attend a course in 1958, lasting one year, at Kneller Hall, the Army School of Music in the United Kingdom.

Both bands have fully qualified bandmasters and the Corps of Drums of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment and the Northern Region Training Centre will receive additional instruction from a Drum Sergeant of the Scots Guards who is expected to arrive in April for a four-months visit.

*Question—*

**\*O.276. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:—

What is the total number of death sentences passed and executed in each Region of the Federation, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos in each of the following years: 1954, 1955 and 1956.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (The hon. J. M. Johnson): The number of death sentences passed and executed in the last three years are as follows:—

1954 Northern Region	..	..	14
Eastern Region	..	..	25
Lagos	..	..	16
Western Region	..	..	—
S. Cameroons	..	..	—
Total	..	..	55
1955 Northern Region	..	..	31
Eastern Region	..	..	36
Lagos	..	..	20
Western Region	..	..	—
S. Cameroons	..	..	2
Total	..	..	89
1956 Northern Region	..	..	5
Eastern Region	..	..	20
Lagos	..	..	16
Western Region	..	..	—
S. Cameroons	..	..	—
Total	..	..	41

*Question—*

**\*O.277. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he will give the number of lives lost as the result of motor road accidents recorded by the Nigeria Police Force in each Region, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos respectively in 1956.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Sir, during the financial year 1st April, 1955 to 31st March, 1956 the numbers of lives lost in fatal road accidents recorded by the Nigeria Police were as follows:—

Northern Region	..	..	50
Eastern Region	..	..	139
Western Region	..	..	242
Southern Cameroons	..	..	16
Federal Territory of Lagos	..	..	42

*Question—*

**\*O.278. Mr P. Deem Kpumm** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he will state the number of Vehicle Testing Officers employed by the Nigeria Police Force in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions respectively and the Federal Territory of Lagos, indicating what proportion of the Vehicle Testing Officers are Africans.

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** There are six posts of Vehicle Inspection Officer in the Northern Region, five in the Western Region, five in the Eastern Region and three in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

As regards the second part of the Question, I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave earlier this morning to Question Number O.229.

Question—

\*O.279. Mr P. Deem Kpumm asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will consider the desirability of posting Vehicle Testing Officers to every Licensing Station in the country in order to avoid the inconveniences now experienced by the public.

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Sir, I appreciate the need for more Vehicle Inspection Officers and I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave this morning to Question No. O.228 for particulars of the provision for increases in staff in 1957-58.

I regret that resources of money and of trained men would not permit the posting of a Vehicle Inspection Officer to every Vehicle Licensing Station.

Supplementary to Question \*O.279—

Mr A. Rosiji (Egba East) : Does the hon. the Chief Secretary know that these vacancies have been in existence for many years, and does he appreciate the fact that it is bad commentary on this Department ?

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** These vacancies have not been in existence for many years, because each year an increase has been sought in the Establishment to take account of the increase in the number of these vehicles to be inspected.

Question—

\*O.280. Mr P. Deem Kpumm asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will give the number of Africans holding senior posts in the Security and Defence Branch of his office; and in the office of the Council of Ministers.

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** It is assumed that the first part of the Question refers to the Office for which provision is made

in Head 25, Defence, of the 1956-57 Estimates, and the answer is that one Nigerian holds a senior post—in fact the most senior post—under that Head.

The answer to the second part of the Question is none at the date of answering although two have served there during the financial year.

Question—

\*O.254. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would name the industries that it is proposed to establish in the Southern Cameroons, suitable for the conditions in the territory.

Answer—

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :** I have no details of the plans of the Government of the Southern Cameroons with regard to the establishment of industries, but I am aware that overseas interests have lately taken the first steps towards starting a tea industry there, and the recent expert survey of the possibilities of the sugar industry extended to the Southern Cameroons as well as to the rest of the Federation. The Federal Government has no plans at present for setting up industries in the Southern Cameroons.

Question—

\*O.265. Mr S. F. Nwika asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

Whether he would now consider establishing tile, ceramic and sugar industries in Ogoni Division, and whether he would therefore conduct preliminary investigations into the resources available in the area.

Answer—

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :** No, Sir: a Ministry cannot establish industries, and the Federal Government has no executive agency for the purpose, such as a development corporation. If commercial or other interests contemplated setting up a tile, ceramic, or sugar industry in the Ogoni Division my Ministry would give them all possible help, and the Federal Government would be willing to contribute towards the capital if the Regional Government wished it, and if the enterprise was soundly planned and showed reasonable prospects of success, and if funds were available having regard to the industrialisation of the country generally.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move That a Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Chapter 234 of the Revised Edition of Laws, 1948) be read a second time.

Sir, before going into the details of the proposed changes in the existing provisions of the Ordinance, I think it might be helpful to the House if I were to give a brief history of the development of workmen's compensation legislation in Nigeria. The earliest statutory provision for the payment of compensation to injured workmen in Nigeria were those contained Regulation 29 of Labour Regulations No. 6 of 1929, made under Section 62 (18) of the Labour Ordinance No. 1 of 1929; Section 58 of the Minerals Ordinance; and Section 11 of the now repealed Forced Labour Ordinance No. 22 of 1933. The 1929 Regulations provided for the payment of compensation by an employer in cases where personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment was caused to a labourer and resulted either in his death, or in his being incapacitated from earning his living, or in his wage-earning capacity being permanently, diminished. The maximum amounts payable were £25 for fatal cases, £20 for permanent total incapacity, and £10 for permanent partial incapacity. The exact amount payable in each case was left to the Court to decide. In addition, an employer was liable for all reasonable medical and hospital expenses incurred on behalf of or by the injured labourer in the treatment of such injury up to a limit of £10. The Minerals Ordinance laid down separate provisions applicable to labourers employed in a mine or in connection with mining or prospecting operations. Section 11 of the former Forced Labour Ordinance made the provisions of the Labour Regulations relating to payment of compensation for industrial injuries applicable to labourers from whom forced labour was exacted as if such persons were under a contract of service.

These limited legal provisions remained in force until the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance No. 51 of 1941 came into operation

The recent expert survey of the possibilities of the sugar industry extended to all parts of the Federation and the siting of sugar factories would naturally be influenced by the survey's findings.

Supplementary to Question O.265—

Mr S. F. Nwika : In the event of the Barnes Report recommending the area suitable for sugar industry, will the Minister consider establishing one in Ogoni Division ?

Mr Speaker : I do not think we want to deal with a hypothetical question, and I suggest Mr Nwika ask Question No. O.266.

Question—

\*O.266. Mr S. F. Nwika asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would give loans to private individuals in Ogoni Division for primary industries.

Answer—

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :** I have no power to make loans. The giving of loans for the establishment or development of industries is the responsibility of the Federal Loans Board which acts in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance under which it was established.

## Ministerial Statement

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** Sir, the House will recollect that during the course of the Debate on the Address, I mentioned that among the pieces of legislation coming before the House during this Session were the Docks (Safety of Labour) Regulations.

Comprehensive Regulations on this subject based on a careful review by the Federal Labour Advisory Council had been drawn up and submitted to me.

Since I made my statement, however, certain representations concerning the application of these Regulations have been received from the Regional Governments and I have decided therefore not to lay the Regulations before the House for approval at this stage. The House, will, I think, agree with me that in all these matters we must proceed with the full agreement of the Regional Governments. There will be further consultations with the Regions and I trust that I shall be in a position to bring the Regulations before the next meeting of the House.

on 1st April, 1942. The 1941 Ordinance contained more detailed provisions and provided improved benefits for injured workers and their dependents. Its application was however, restricted to workers engaged in certain scheduled trades or industries. It fixed the maximum compensation payable in respect of fatal cases to be an amount equal to 30 months' earnings of the worker concerned or £600 (whichever was the lesser) and, in respect of permanent total incapacity, 42 months' earnings or £750. The compensation payable in respect of permanent total incapacity was not to be less than £50. Provisions relating to periodic payments of half monthly earnings during periods of temporary incapacity were also included.

The 1950 Ordinance which is the subject of the Amending Bill which I am bringing forward today, introduced some notable new features into the workmen's compensation legislation in this country. These included :—

(a) Provision for additional compensation of up to 25 per cent in cases where the permanent total incapacity is of such a nature that the injured workman must have the constant help of another person.

(b) Expenses in connection with medical, surgical and hospital treatment incurred by an injured workman up to a maximum of £100 to be defrayed by the employer.

(c) Expenses in connection with the supply, maintenance, repair and renewal of non-articulated artificial limbs and apparatus not exceeding £50 to be defrayed by the employer.

(d) A clause to enable the Governor in Council to extend the provisions of the Ordinance to incapacity or death resulting from occupational diseases.

Another important improvement introduced in 1950 was the extension of workmen's compensation benefits to a wider category of workers by the removal of the former restrictive clause which limited the application of the Ordinance to workmen in certain scheduled employment only.

The most recent amendment made to the law is that effected by Ordinance No. 14 of 1956 which I introduced during the Budget Session of the House last year and which brings triouters employed in the Plateau Minesfield within the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.

From this brief historical sketch which I have given, honourable Members will see the various stages by which workmen's compensation law in this country has advanced. These benefits were considered to be fair and reasonable under the conditions prevailing at the time they were embodied in the law, but clearly they need to be kept under review to ensure that they take full account of the increased cost of medical attention for example, or cost of living generally. It even costs more to be buried these days than it did a few years ago. Moreover, other territories have improved their workmen's compensation legislation in recent years and many of the provisions contained in our own legislation lag somewhat behind those of other territories, including our nearest neighbour, Ghana. I know that hon. Members are always conscious of their responsibility for social progress and will share with me the wish that we should set the best standards compatible with our stage of economic development and the limitations of our economic resources. It was with these principles in mind that I caused a review to be made of the existing legislation with the following aims :—

(a) A positive improvement in benefits to provide more fully than in the past for the victims of industrial accidents.

(b) Increases in monetary payments in a form providing benefits going somewhat beyond what was necessary merely to keep pace with increases in the cost of living.

(c) Percentage assessments of disabilities which have regard for the predominantly labour types of work available in this country to the average disabled man, and which take account of our inability at present to give the most advanced forms of occupational training to the disabled.

Sir, before I go any further, let me say that the review of the present Ordinance, in common with other legislation which I have brought before this House was undertaken by my Federal Labour Advisory Council on whose recommendations the main provisions of the Bill have been based. The recommendations of the Council were subsequently remitted to the various Regional Governments for their comments and the views of the latter have been incorporated in the present Bill. The Bill therefore comes to this House with the support of the Regional Governments, including the Government of the Southern Cameroons,

and after full consideration by the representatives of organised labour and of employers who constitute the membership of the Federal Labour Advisory Council.

I should now like to describe the more important provisions of the Bill :—

(a) Section 1 (2) limits the application of the provisions of the bill to cases occurring after the coming into operation of the new Ordinance. This will help to remove any doubts which might arise as to the extent of its applicability.

(b) At present, clerical workers earning more than £500 a year are excluded from the present provision. This upper limit is now to be raised to £800 and will bring within the scope of the Ordinance many clerical workers whose rising incomes have taken them beyond the upper limit for workmen's compensation. Power is given to the Governor in Council of a Region to apply this provision to any clerical officer in the public service of that Region.

(c) The raising of the salary limit for non-manual workers proposed in section 2 (1) of the bill will make a number of pensionable Federal civil servants eligible for compensation, i.e., those earning between £500 and £800. At present, a pensionable officer is eligible for compensation under the Pensions Ordinance, 1951 which also provides that neither the officer nor his dependents shall be eligible for such compensation if they are eligible for compensation under any other Ordinance. The proposed amendment will therefore render such officers ineligible for compensation under the Pensions Ordinance, 1951. It is however laid down in section 190 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council 1954 that the rights of existing officers and their dependents under any pensions legislation must be preserved unless other rights which are not less favourable are given to them instead. Since it cannot be said with certainty that the rights under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance will be in every case not less favourable than those under the Pensions Ordinance, it has been considered necessary to give any officer who is likely to be affected by the amendment contained in clause 2 of the Bill a choice between remaining eligible under the Pensions Ordinance, or becoming

eligible under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. This choice is required, under clause 4 (3) of the Bill, to be exercised within six months of the coming into operation of the amendment and if an officer should die within that period without having exercised his right of election, those of his dependents who would be eligible under the Pensions Ordinance for benefits, may elect under clause 4 (5) that the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance shall be deemed to apply to him. In this connection also, the Governor in Council of a Region is empowered under clause 4 (4) to apply this provision to servants of the Regional Government.

(d) The maximum amount of compensation payable at present in respect of fatal cases is a sum equal to thirty months' earnings or £600 where a workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent on his earnings. It is now proposed in clause 5 (i) to raise these figures to 42 months' earnings or £800 whichever is less. In addition, it is also provided that the amount of compensation in respect of a fatal case shall in no case be less than £200. Previously there was no minimum payment.

Another improvement in the provisions relating to compensation in respect of fatal cases now proposed is the raising, in clause 5 (ii) of the Bill, of the maximum amount of burial expenses payable by an employer from £15 to £30. I will here make an explanation. I realise that in certain respects workmen's compensation, but particularly the payment of burial expenses where death is caused by an accident may be contrary to Muslim Law. I have been asked by the Government of the Northern Region to give an assurance which I gladly do now that the Department of Labour will not take the initiative in making claims on behalf of individuals in cases where such claims would be contrary to Muslim Law.

In clause 6, the maximum amount of compensation to be payable in non-fatal cases of total permanent incapacity has been raised from 48 months' earnings or £1,000, whichever is less, to 54 months' earnings or £1,600. The minimum compensation payable is also raised from £75 to £300.

Before I leave this provision of monetary compensation, let me give some brief explanations on the various increases proposed in this

Bill. The existing maximum of £600 in respect of the death of a worker with dependents is paid in very few cases, i.e., only where the deceased workman's monthly wage is £20 or over. As has often happened, a labourer with an income of a few shillings a day may be involved. For example, the compensation to the dependents of a worker on 5s a day would be £195. In fact at the present time the benefit would be £126. The provision of a minimum of £200 is designed to improve the compensation rates in respect of the lower paid worker, while the substitution of 42 months for 30 months and an increase of the maximum from £600 to £800 will improve the benefits to the worker in the intermediate and higher grades. Similar principles have been followed in respect of non-fatal cases.

Further increased benefits are proposed in clause 9 of the Bill and these relate to periodical payments during periods of temporary incapacity. The law at present provides that in cases of temporary incapacity periodical payments shall be made at a rate proportionate to half the differences between the monthly earnings of the worker at the time of the accident; and the monthly earnings which he is capable of earning after the accident. This generally means that the worker receives half his normal monthly earnings. This is a severe reduction of earnings at a time when a man's physical state may require additional nourishment or special expenditure in the house. A payment of two-thirds of average monthly earnings is therefore proposed in clause 9(a). This figure is regarded as alleviating to some extent the hardship common in this type of case. The maximum amount which can be paid as periodical payment at present is £12. It is now being raised in clause 9(b) to £20. This is necessary in view of the raising of the upper income limit of workmen now covered by the Ordinance from £500 to £800.

The amendment proposed in clause 15 of the Bill will render an employer responsible for travelling expenses incurred by a worker in the course of receiving medical treatment up to a limit of £15.

Sir, I now come to the last of the proposed amendments. The whole of the Second Schedule giving the disability percentages in certain incapacities is now to be replaced with a revised list.

Mr Speaker: I want to make one proviso. The House of Commons generally considers it inadvisable to discuss Amendments during the Second Reading Debate; if we allow that discussion now we will not have the speeches repeated in Committee. Will the Minister agree?

The Minister of Labour and Welfare: I have just a second point to make about the difference between the disability of the African worker compared with the African worker in the United Kingdom who has got rehabilitation, and then to inform the Members to appreciate that it is necessary to increase the compensation for the Nigerian worker who has no facilities and course of training as in the United Kingdom or in Western Germany. (Interruption). I do not know whether that is so but I believe it is not the Opposition who can decide on a point of order.

(b) To adjust percentages, as I have mentioned earlier, to allow for the more restricted employment opportunities for a disabled man in a developing country such as Nigeria as compared with the opportunities for both rehabilitation and employment in countries such as the United Kingdom. May I explain in a little more detail just what I mean by this. In the United Kingdom, in Western Germany and other European countries, there are available rehabilitation centres where a disabled man can be taught how to overcome his disability; where he can be provided, for example, with an artificial hand or an artificial arm with special attachments for holding tools and so on. In these centres even a man who has lost both arms can be taught how to undertake skilled work and there are special arrangements for putting him into a job afterwards. Moreover the range of light work, e.g., lift man, gate man, light clerical work and so on available is very much greater than in this country so that the effect of the disability is felt by a Nigerian much more directly than a similar disability to someone in Europe. It is in some sense to compensate for this reduced earning ability of the Nigerian worker in the circumstances of this country that these individual percentages in particular disabilities, more especially those affecting hands and arms, have been increased to the present levels.

In reviewing the new list, Sir, I shall only draw the attention of hon. Members to the more important changes proposed. At present, the degree of disability resulting from the loss of an arm at the elbow, between the wrist and elbow and at the wrist is rated as 50 per cent, 47 per cent and 42½ per cent respectively. I do not, however, agree that there is much difference in the disability resulting from any of the three categories. All the three are equally disabling to a man who is engaged in manual labour. Moreover, if a man cannot grip a matchet or hammer, as when he has lost four fingers and the thumb of one hand, he is as much disabled as if he had lost his arm. For these reasons, the figure of 70 per cent has been chosen as the appropriate degree of disability in all these cases. The United Kingdom percentages for the same disabilities range from 80 to 60 and the Sierra Leone rates from 70 to 60. I am of the opinion that the loss of four fingers has been under-assessed in the past at 35 per cent. The United Kingdom rate is 40 per cent, but for the reasons which I have given earlier, a higher rate in Nigeria is considered reasonable and 50 per cent is therefore proposed. The loss of the index finger, at present rated at 10 per cent but now to be increased to 15 per cent, compares with 10 per cent elsewhere in West Africa and 14 per cent in the United Kingdom. The loss of the middle finger (at present rated at 6 per cent) is now assessed at 10 per cent. The prevailing rate for this disability in West Africa is 6 per cent and in the United Kingdom it is rated at 12 per cent. Total loss of hearing is now to be rated at 100 per cent: at present it is 50 per cent. Some few additions have also been made to the list. These include such disabilities as loss of the remaining eye by a one-eyed workman, loss of the remaining arm by a one-armed workman and loss of the remaining leg by a one-legged workman. All are to be rated at 100 per cent. (Hear, hear).

I should like Members to be clear that benefits of this kind cannot be conferred without placing a burden on the shoulders of someone. In this case, the additional burden is transferred to the employers and I hope that any Member of this House who wishes to suggest a further increase in the benefits should remember that a large proportion of the workers covered by the Bill are not employees of Government or large commercial firms with great resources, but are employed by small

businessmen with little capital in many cases. The increases in benefits makes it all the more necessary that employers should insure against their responsibilities. Indeed I considered at one stage whether insurance against workmen's compensation ought not to be made compulsory, but abandoned the proposal, having regard among other things to the administrative difficulties in the way of ensuring compliance. Insurance is not expensive: for example building trade workers are insured for less than £1 per £100 of the total wage bill of the employer; clerks for about 12s-6d per cent; messengers ten shillings per cent and so on. I hope that in view of the increased responsibilities of employers a much higher proportion will cover these responsibilities by insurance.

It will be observed that the Ordinance does not come into effect until the first day of July 1957. I have suggested that date in order to give employers an opportunity to consider the desirability of insuring and, if they decide to insure, to take out the appropriate policies.

Members will appreciate how complicated the subject of Workmen's Compensation is and will, I am sure, understand how difficult it is for the ordinary labourer to understand his rights. For this reason I intend to have produced a simple and cheap Guide to the Ordinance on the lines of the Guide to the Labour Code and the Short Guide to the Factories Ordinance which most Members must have seen. In addition my Friend the hon. Attorney-General intends to direct that the Ordinance be reprinted to include the present Bill and all previous amendments in view of the difficulty the ordinary person has in following the text of this much amended Ordinance.

Hon. Members will I hope see a pattern emerging in our labour legislation. The Factories Ordinance which came into operation last September should, in course of time, exert a strong influence on the standards of safety, health and welfare in factories in this country. The Bill improves the benefits paid to the unfortunate few who are affected by accidents, and gives employers an incentive to adopt improved safety measures. The Wages Board Ordinance which passed into law during this Session protects the worker in underpaid occupations. When the revision of the Labour Code Ordinance is completed, and placed before the House, Members will see that

throughout the Federation there exists uniform, modern and humane labour laws so that wherever a worker may go in this country he has the same measure of legal protection. (*Hear, hear*).

I feel sure that Opposition will not wish to divide the House on a Bill of this character. I have been having some researches made into what happened when the 1942 Ordinance was introduced. When the Bill came before the Legislative Council in 1941 it was hailed by the "Daily Service" of Tuesday, January 14th, 1941, as the "Workmen's Charter". The "Daily Service" went on to say that it did not think that the measure would arouse opposition in any quarter. Well, the amendments put forward in this Bill make it in fact a super charter and I feel sure that on this occasion too there will be no opposition from any quarter.

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

The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): Mr Speaker, Sir, the only objection I have to the Second Reading of this Bill is that the hon. Minister over-argued an obvious case. I don't think it is necessary to belabour such an obvious point as much as the hon. Minister did, although I can understand why he did so, he is facing a group of people who are hard at understanding, so he must therefore take a long time to prove to them. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Order! I will not have this Debate prolonged by constant interruption.

Chief Akintola: If it had not been for that, Sir, I would have said that this amendment is the answer to a case which has long been made out by the workers in this country.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance as it now exists is most unsatisfactory and workers have been making representations about certain provisions in it for the last few years. I must therefore congratulate the Minister for being able to improve their conditions, and to meet what has proved to be a justifiable complaint on the part of the workers. There will be no dissentient voice on this particular score. I think to increase the compensation payable to the workers is something which will commend itself to every section of this House.

There are two features of the amendment which must appeal to those who are familiar with the law. One is that the ceiling of compensation payable has been considerably raised and the second is the number of people who will now be able to receive this compensation. For these two reasons, I think the Minister should be congratulated.

I am, however, diffident on one point and that is those who derive benefit from this Ordinance as it now is, are predominantly Government employees. The law extends to other workers who are not Government employees, but how far do they benefit from this Ordinance? There are many employers in the country who are bound under the law to pay compensation to injured workers, but they can only do so if they can afford to pay. The law is all right at the moment, pay 100 per cent, or 75 per cent that is all right, and it is fair, but what happens say to a driver of a lorry who is involved in an accident. The owner of the lorry has bought it "on tick" the lorry sustains an accident, the driver is either dead or seriously injured. Strictly speaking the driver is not covered by what we call Third Party Insurance.

Now, if the owner of the lorry is lucky he may succeed in getting a little for his lorry, but probably not enough to enable him to pay the remaining instalment for his lorry. And what happens about the driver, or his dependants? He usually gets little, or nothing at all. That is not the fault of the law as it now stands, nor is it the fault of the amendment, but I would appeal to the hon. Minister to revise it even more so that a wider range of worker may be included under its provisions.

I would suggest that the hon. Minister should consult with others who maybe have more reliable knowledge about this matter than I have. Perhaps ways and means can be devised whereby all employers of labour in industries, especially those of a more hazardous nature, are compelled to insure their workmen. Insurance may be undertaken by the Government itself, or by an Agency set up by the Government, so as to keep the rate as low as possible. If that was the case, then it would be compulsory for me, or for any other Member of this House or the community at large to insure their own car drivers. Unless something of this nature is done, this law will exist merely to adorn our Statute Book and it will not bring any benefit to a large number of employees in this country.

The law may be all right as it stands for Government employees, for employees of the larger firms, or even predominant businessmen, but a lot of us who employ labour on a small scale in our respective spheres are not in a position to pay compensation at a high rate. So I appeal to the hon. Minister to go a step further to see what he can do so that a larger number of workers will be able to derive maximum benefit from this amendment.

To make my point clearer, Sir, I would say that practically every Member in this House owns a car, but not all of them drive their own cars. A large percentage of them employ drivers, but how many of those drivers are insured, and how many of us can afford to insure them, or to pay them anything if they are involved in an accident? I pray that an accident will not happen, but in spite of our prayers, mishaps do occur. Anyway, if an accident does happen how many of us are in a position to pay compensation as laid down here? Practically none; but if we are asked to pay an insurance for our drivers, say £1 or £2 a year, I think we could all afford that and by doing that we will protect not only ourselves but our employee as well, who will be able to derive maximum benefit from the amendment which we are now passing.

Mr Speaker, I beg to the surprise and amazement of the hon. Minister of Labour and Welfare, to support the amendment wholeheartedly.

M. Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the amendment, and I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for introducing it. Both workers and their dependants will now receive a substantial amount of money not previously enjoyed under the principal Ordinance.

It is also gratifying to see that the amendment is applicable to the Regions. I hope the Native Authorities and Local Councils will be recommended to follow suit. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to join the Leader of the Opposition in congratulating the Hon. Minister of Labour and Welfare. I appreciate the fact that the hon. Minister has always been successful in bringing to this House progressive legislation. (*Hear, hear*). The other day in this House he brought us legislation on social welfare, which was received with approbation by the whole House. The present legislation, now before

us, does not require much argument or discussion as the hon. Minister has explained to us in his speech all the details and provisions in the amendment. The amendment is clear and there is nothing to argue about; the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has actually accepted that fact. He agreed *in toto* with everything the hon. Minister said.

I trust, therefore, that every Member in this House will join me in thanking the hon. Minister for his progressive legislation and requesting him to continue to bring such progressive legislation to this House in the future.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the claimant voice of Nigeria to be industrialised has been taken up throughout the country, but not everyone realises the evils that are attendant upon industrialisation. It is a wise thing to take precautions before the evils have descended upon us. This is the forerunner of many more Bills to come. There will be an attempt to humanise a horrible thing, the horrible thing they call industrialisation, because in industry it is the machine that takes over; and machines are ruthless. The very nature of their precision is the very nature of their cruelty. If a person puts pressure on another man by accident, he can restrain him before he has done more injury, but not a machine. The machine crumbles and crushes before any remedy can be applied. And you can see that in a country like ours where the people are still largely illiterate and still largely unused to the handling of machines and machinery, we shall find that unless there are measures such as this, we should be having the miseries of industrialisation staring us in the face.

Sir, in joining in the tributes already paid to the Minister of Labour and Welfare, I should say that we have now started to see the full effects of the many conferences which this energetic Minister has attended. (*Loud applause*). You cannot go to these conferences and meet the many representatives from highly industrialised countries without discussing with them the effects of industrialisation upon a people. We are seeing the effects of a mechanised age in our own streets, in our own homes, in our own country. We are beginning to see that the African who naturally in his environment is very considerate of others, as soon as he gets hold of the machine

he forgets his humanity. Drivers have been mentioned this morning. But what happens when a driver gets into his vehicle? Well, he forgets that there are human beings on the road; he forgets that there are other drivers who are entitled to use the roads; he forgets that he has children at home; he forgets that other people have dependents.

Leave drivers alone. The ordinary shop-keeper who advertises his wares, what happens? He employs a loud speaker and he employs the loud speaker to the inconvenience of all around because he is in his own premises; the nuisance that he creates spreads far around him. Even road users who are passing in a car, the blaring of that loud speaker disturbs you as you go by. Those are the evidences of the mechanised age coming upon us. And so there are many more ways than the one which the Minister of Labour and Welfare and all those who are engaged in trying to soften the severity of the industrial age for our country, there are very many ways in which they have to plug the leak or to make life a little easier for some of us who are still emerging from a rural economy.

Sir, this is one of the Ministries which, if ably handled and with imagination, will make our country one of the very best countries for people to live in in the whole world.... (Loud applause)...because in any country where capitalists and industrialists have taken over, it is the weak man who goes to the wall. Who are the weak men? They are the labourers, the people who handle the machines for a paltry wage: call it a living wage—their lives at stake, families suffer, unless there are such Bills as this to protect and to provide.

And so, Sir, without wasting any more words, I will say that we want more and more of this kind of measure to soften the severity of modern civilisation and to try and secure for us some of the peace and calm and security which we are fast losing. (Applause).

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makam** (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill wholeheartedly. (Hear, hear.) There is no question whatsoever that such a Bill means a great deal of help to workers or their families. It will have no difficulty in getting support from all sides of the House.

However, I would like to make one suggestion: compensation for injury, loss of a limb, gratuities, and so on, to the workers

themselves or their families are unnecessarily delayed before payments are made. Workers or their families do complain bitterly of delays by clerks or cashiers before payment of what is rightly due to them is effected. I am appealing to the Government to make proper arrangements whereby money due to a worker or his dependents should be paid with the least delay because such delays not only cause a feeling of disappointment to workers but also breed bribery and corruption. As a trade unionist, I am really very happy with this Bill because it will be found useful and helpful to many more workers and their dependents in this Federation.

Sir, I beg to support and congratulate the Minister.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, as usual, I think it is only necessary for me to thank the Members who have contributed to this debate and to say that I am very grateful for all they have said about my Ministry.

The only point, Sir, was that, although the Leader of the Opposition thought I was too lengthy in my Motion, he had taken almost half of the time that it took me to make my original Motion. (Hear, hear.)

Now, Sir, I must say that I am in great sympathy with the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. Some of them, I think, had been adequately replied to by my hon. Friend, Chief T. T. Solaru, but I must say this (I think I have mentioned it in my speech), that the question of insurance is necessary, but for some reason that the Leader of the Opposition had given, one has to be a bit chary in putting it across because of the economic resources of some of the small businessmen. And further, it seems to me that his views certainly must be a matter for serious consideration and I can give him the assurance that I shall take serious note of it and I have to consult with him and other people so that we can make a decision which will not bring untold hardship on small businessmen.

Perhaps it will be necessary, as is done in Northern Rhodesia, to create a Workmen's Compensation Fund to which all employers of labour should be making small contributions and they would appoint a Workmen's Compensation Commissioner who would be in charge of the Fund so that in case somebody of the nature of a lorry owner is involved in such an accident

and he is bound to pay some compensation, he need not dip his hand into his paltry pocket but would have made sufficient contribution providing for such fatal accidents. I think that this is a matter for consideration and, if I have the opportunity of consulting with others and take necessary advice, it may be necessary for me to bring it before this House and I think then that the Leader of the Opposition will have the satisfaction that his admonition has not fallen on deaf ears. (Loud applause.)

**Mr L. P. Ojukwu** (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, while agreeing with the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister about this question of going into the possibility of ensuring that all the workmen are insured, I would like to remind the Minister that the position in Nigeria is not the same as in the United Kingdom. Here you have drivers who change their working places every year. The hon. Minister of Labour might come here with a driver this morning and when he gets out he finds that his driver has gone to another master. Supposing he had been insured with £1, will the Minister tomorrow put an application for the insurance of another man? All these things should be taken into consideration.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kola Balogun) 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 a Second Time, put accordingly, and agreed to.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1 to 7 agreed to.*

*Clause 8.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): It is merely to draw attention to the fact of the medical examination prior to the institution of paying compensation. I hope that in the execution of the spirit of this Clause it will be made possible for workmen who are not sophisticated to get their claims promptly and sympathetically looked into without having to pay back-door money—if you know what I mean, Sir. That is the difficulty.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): We will take care of that.

**Mallam Usman Angulu Ahmed** (Kwara): There are a few remarks which I want to make on this section. I tried when the Bill was on the Table to speak on this matter but I had no chance. We welcome the bold step taken by the Minister.

**The Chairman**: Second Reading speeches will not do now. We must confine ourselves to the Clause.

**Mallam Usman Angulu Ahmed**: I just want to put the case of one boy who was working in a U.A.C. ship at Burutu. The lift used in the ship injured the fellow and the poor man had no compensation for this.

*Clause 8 agreed to.*

*Clause 9 to 16 agreed to.*

*Clause 17.*

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move to amend the second Schedule by deleting all details under the heading "Loss of toes" and substituting:

"Loss of toes—all of one foot ..	20
great, both	
phalanges ..	10
one phalange ..	3
other than great,	
if more than	
one toe lost,	
each ..	2"

My reason is that the omission of an item in the draft caused the Printers to be misled and the best way to correct the error is to set the item out again. I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare**: I beg to move the second amendment to Clause 17, at the end of the second schedule add the following note:

"(1) Total permanent loss of the use of a member shall be treated as loss of such member.

(2) In the case of a right-handed workman an injury to the left arm or hand and in the case of a left-handed workman, to the right arm or hand shall be rated at ninety per centum of the above percentages.

(3) Where there is loss of two or more parts of the hand the percentage of incapacity shall not be more than for loss of the

whole hand, and any necessary lesser percentage shall be applied accordingly".

I make this amendment because there are foreseeable difficulties in interpreting the case of percentage disability applicable to various injuries. Sir I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** It is a little difficult: one can understand that the object of this amendment is to try to assess accurately a man who has lost probably the right hand or the left hand which he uses in his trade. But it looks as if the Minister has in mind those who are clerks and other people. But what about people who are ambidextrous, people who need both hands in their trade. A loss of the right hand is a loss and a loss of the left is a loss. I cannot understand trying to distinguish which loss carries more compensation. It seems to me that the loss of a limb is a loss. Even though one is sorry that a right-handed man loses his right hand if that is what he uses, but it will be invidious to try to distinguish.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare:** The purpose of the Bill is not for the loss of the hand but for the degree of a person's incapacitation.

**Chief T. T. Solaru:** But that means that one is more useful to him than the other.

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin):** I support this amendment and in addition I should like the Minister of Labour to consider the loss of sight which occurs in the clerical line. You cannot expect the clerk to lose his limbs as you expect him to lose his sight. An eye-glass allowance should be given to the clerk annually.

**Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka):** I do not know whether the Minister is aware of the point Chief Solaru is trying to make because, in trying to help the workers in one way, we must not treat them unfairly in another out of lack of understanding.

The idea is: suppose a worker is ambidextrous—the left hand and the right hand are used equally—that is, the degree of importance of either arm is equal: what happens if both arms are ruined while he is in industry? That is a point that should be explained.

**Mr M. M. Adaji (North Igala):** There is a complication in this Amendment. Supposing

I am a right-handed person, and, during the execution of my business, I lose my left hand: will there be no compensation for it?

It seems that there is a complication here because, if a right-handed person happens to lose his left hand, I am sure that the management would say "Well, you are right-handed and it is your left hand you have lost; so it doesn't matter so much."

We need to be educated as to the meaning of this particular Amendment. It would be better if both hands could be regarded as of equal value.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** On a point of explanation. Perhaps I should make my point clearer in this sense: I am used to writing with my right hand but there are other things which I can do only with my left hand. Now, how would you classify me? What is going to happen if I lose my left hand? It is value to me for doing some things, as my right is of value for doing others.

*Question, That the proposed words be there added, put and agreed to.*

*Question, That Clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Bill reported, with Amendments.*

*Question proposed, That the Bill, as amended, be now read the Third Time and passed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** It is true, of course, that in wording the Law legal men use their own language and their language often is not the language of the ordinary man: consequently, when they try to distinguish between the value of the left and right hands it is not always easy to follow. In the same way I fail to distinguish between hearing and the loss of an ear. This Schedule says "the loss of hearing" and then, below, "one ear." Whether it is the external ear or the internal hearing I leave the lawyers and judges to decide! If a man loses one ear, will that be "hearing?"—or what is it?

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill, as amended, accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

THE PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (REGULATION)  
(AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey):** Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Public Collections (Regulation) Ordinance be now read a Second Time.

This is a very short Bill, Sir, of only two clauses, and I hope that the House will have found that it is very adequately explained in the Objects and Reasons provided by my learned and honourable Friend, the Attorney-General, in connection with the Bill.

The sole object of the Bill, Sir, is to remedy an imperfection that has been found in the Ordinance. The Ordinance is one to regulate public collections, and this it does by requiring a person—with certain exceptions—to register his application to undertake a public collection. Obviously there will be no regulation of this business unless the Registration Authority is given some power to refuse registration, and one of the grounds on which he may refuse registration, or revoke it after it has been effected, is if it appears to him that in the words of the Ordinance as it stands at present, any of the stated objects is illegal or contrary to public morality; but the stated objects, defined in Section 6 of the Ordinance, mean the objects that the applicant for registration has stated.

Now, it would be quite possible for someone who wished to undertake a collection for an object that was illegal or contrary to public morality, to put in an application saying that the object was one thing, which was legal, whereas in fact it was for another object, which was illegal, and the Registration Authority, even though he knew the deceit that was being practised upon him, could not, in law, refuse the registration.

So the sole object of the Bill, Sir, is to remove from paragraph (a) of Section 63, the word "stated", so that if the Registration Authority is satisfied that any of the true, real objects for collection is illegal or contrary to public morality, he may refuse registration.

That, Sir, is the sole object of this short Bill, and Sir, I beg to move.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. Unsworth):** Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. Rosiji (Egba East):** Mr Speaker, Sir, the object of this Bill is not bad, but I think that the Government should try to find another way of achieving the same result. One can well understand the possibility of people stating false objects in their application for public collection. It happened before, I remember on one occasion a large sum of money was collected, it was not stated that the money was going to be used for the purpose of curing piles in London, for the purpose of buying medical instruments, but the purpose stated was to go and see the Colonial Secretary on some national issue. Well, one can well understand that type of situation arising, but on the other hand one must consider that the people whose duties it is to approve the granting of these permits should not be turned into puppet dictators. When a great deal of discretion is left in the hands of officials, it must be very jealously guarded.

Now, I should have thought that the standing of the person who makes the application will be a material factor in this case. And for the officer just to say without being asked to prove his reason for suspicion, just to say that even though you state something on your application he happens to believe that you want to collect this money for illegal or immoral purposes, I think, is a little highhanded. I do not know if the hon. the Attorney-General cannot find his way clear to making it possible to punish people who make false declarations, and the very fear of that sanction will deter people from making false statements in such an application.

I like to hear the hon. the Chief Secretary's reply. I am not against the purpose that it is intended to achieve, but the method, I think, can be improved upon.

**M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin):** Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Motion. In doing so I would like to be enlightened on some points. Sir, as you might have been aware, we have so many political organisations in Nigeria at the moment, with their various branches all over the country. Now, occasion might arise when their respective parent bodies may decide that all the distant members of each organisation should contribute a certain amount each. May I know whether this will be regarded as public collection?



**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama** (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, with your permission I would like to record my appreciation and support for this simple, but very important Bill. It certainly is the duty of any Government to use every means at its disposal to safeguard the public against grabbers and others who manage to obtain permit for public collection and then use the money not for legally recognised purposes or in accordance with the standard of morality which cannot be but questionable. We in Nigeria, Sir, want our moral standards to be of the best type, and the Government should always take appropriate measures to make that possible.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr D. E. Okereke** (Owerri): Mr Speaker, I do not know whether the Registration Authority here is a legal man, that is a man who has some legal training. If he is, I should not have much to quarrel with, but my reason is, for a man to know what strictly is illegal or contrary to public morality, he should be a legally trained man, otherwise he might make mistakes quite a number of times. So, I hope that the object here is to put a man whom the Registration Authorities think is a legally trained man, otherwise if you put it into the hands of a layman he may not understand exactly what you mean by being illegal or contrary to public morality.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation** (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth): Mr Speaker, I deal first with the point raised by Mr Rosiji. I do not think myself, Mr Speaker, that it is possible to find any other practicable way of dealing with this matter otherwise than by the Amendment that has been proposed. It is, of course, under the existing provisions of the Ordinance an offence to make a false statement for the purpose of obtaining registration, but I do not think the mere prosecution which is brought after the collection has been made would solve our difficulties. It is rather like, I submit, shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted.

The purpose of this is in a case, and only in a case, Mr Speaker, in which the Registration Authority has very good reasons to believe that the real purpose is an immoral one, or an illegal one, and then in those particular circumstances he can refuse to grant registration. It is only in those cases. If, of course, the Registration Authority acted in bad faith, that

is another matter. He could, of course, be taken to the courts.

With regard to the point raised by Mr Okereke, the registering authority in Lagos is the Deputy Commissioner of the Colony, but now it will be vested in the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. He is a person probably who would have sat in court, and had some legal experience, but he would not necessarily be a legally qualified man.

*Question, That the Bill be now read a Second Time put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*House in 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.*

THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SECURITIES  
(LOCAL TRUSTEE INVESTMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation** (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance entitled, The Government and Other Securities (Local Trustee Investment) Ordinance be now read a Second Time.

The purpose of this Bill, Sir, is quite simple. It is to give legal sanction to the investment within Nigeria of funds held by trustees. If this Bill passes into law, it will be possible for trust funds which have hitherto had to be invested in the United Kingdom to be invested in this country in securities of the Federal Government, in securities issued by the Regional Governments or the Government of the Southern Cameroons or securities issued by specified public corporations. I am hopeful that this will mean the funds which have hitherto had to be placed overseas will be available for the financing of our own internal development.

Hon. Members will appreciate, Sir, that the essence of a trust is that it must protect the person or class of persons in whose interests and for whose benefit it has been created. The trustee may therefore legally invest funds only according to the directions contained in the trust deed. If the deed does not give

directions as to how the money is to be invested, it can only be put into the so-called "trustee stocks" and no others. These are the gilt-edged securities specified by the United Kingdom Trustee Act of 1893.

Loans raised by Colonial Governments are classed as trustee stocks if they comply with the conditions laid down by the Colonial Stock Acts, 1877 to 1934. These conditions are very rigorous. Briefly, they are as follows:—

Firstly, the borrowing Government must provide by legislation for payment from its revenues of any sums payable to stockholders by order of the United Kingdom court:

Secondly, the borrower must satisfy the United Kingdom Treasury that adequate funds, as and when required, will be made available in the United Kingdom for payments arising under the first condition: and

Thirdly, the borrower must formally place on record an expression of opinion that any legislation enacted by the borrowing Government which appears to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to alter any of the provisions affecting the stock to the injury of the stockholders, or to involve a departure from the original contract in regard to the stock, would properly be disallowed.

These, Sir, are the so-called Treasury conditions. They are not, I would emphasise, applied only to stocks issued by Colonial Governments. They apply equally, although in a slightly different form, to loans raised in the United Kingdom by self-governing Dominions such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Ceylon. It could not be otherwise if the stocks of these Governments are to be recognised as possessing the unimpeachable value and standing which is essential for the granting of trustee status.

Nigerian loans raised in London in the past have complied with the Treasury conditions and possess a 'gilt-edged' status equal to that of any other trustee stock bought and sold on the London Stock Exchange. Whilst, however, trustees in Nigeria can quite properly invest in Nigerian Government stock issued on the London market, there is, as I have explained, no provision in the law at present enabling them to invest their funds in any loan which may be raised internally by the Nigerian Federal or

Regional Governments or by a Nigerian statutory corporation. This means in practice that the trustees of local funds are debarred from investing in locally issued securities. Consequently Nigerian funds which would otherwise be available for internal investment are invested abroad. This is not a situation that we can afford to allow to continue. A considerable amount of investible money is involved. There are large trust funds held within Nigeria, in particular the superannuation funds of the public corporations and the large commercial concerns. As time goes on, these funds will increase and Government considers it essential to remove the legal obstacle which prevents this money from finding employment inside the country in the financing of our development. Preliminary enquiries which I have made suggest that from the superannuation schemes of the public corporations considerable sums should be available for local investment during the next five years. The commercial and industrial firms holding similar funds may also be willing to consider putting at least a proportion of their money into locally issued trustee stocks.

I think, Sir, that what I have said so far will give the House an idea of the general purpose of this Bill. The constitutional position does, however, require an additional word of explanation. Under the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council of 1954, the subject of Trustees is placed on the Concurrent Legislative List. I am advised by my honourable and learned friend the Attorney-General, that the categories of trustees set out in Item 30 of the Concurrent List include all trustees of whatever kind. The effect of this is that there is no Regional legislative jurisdiction concerning trustees, except to the extent that the Federal Government itself does not legislate. The Regional Governments and the Government of the Southern Cameroons have been informed of the terms of the Bill which is now before the House and have raised no objection to it. If it is passed, therefore, the locally issued stocks of these Governments will also be able to qualify for trustee status, as well as those of the Federal Government, and there will be no need for Regional Governments to legislate to this effect.

As I have emphasised earlier on, Mr Speaker, conferment of trustee status is not a matter to be regarded lightly. This point was well made by my honourable friend, Mr Daldry, in his reference to this Bill when taking part in the

debate on the Speech from the Throne. Only Governments and corporations possessing the full confidence of the investor can expect to command trustee status for their stocks. Therefore the Bill stops short of conferring automatic trustee status on stocks other than those of the Federal Government. It provides that the Governor-General in Council may by notice in the Gazette declare specific Regional Government and Corporation securities as possessing trustee status. Before making such a declaration the Governor-General in Council will necessarily have to take that same rigorous view of the borrower's solvency and credit-worthiness which is taken by the United Kingdom authorities in conferring trustee status on Colonial stocks issued in London.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. C. Daldry (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, one of the greatest figures of our time is reputed to have said at the height of the last war that he would refuse in future to read any memorandum which could not be written on one sheet of paper. This Bill matches up to that requirement; it is clear and concise. If the printing had been a little more condensed it would even have kept to one side of one sheet paper.

The Bill deals with securities. Now a child, coming for the first time across the terminology of the Stock Exchange, might be pardoned if he thought that a security is something which is secure and that, of course, is what it ought to be, but in an imperfect world we all know that this is often far from being the case. In an attempt to guide those who are trustees for others, a number of securities have been picked out by the law of England and set aside in the past and named specifically; in other words, branded as it were with a half-mark of security and called "Trustee Securities."

It is in these securities and in no others that trustees have been able to invest in the past. And now we are bringing a similar measure here and this Bill, which I anticipate we shall be invited to pass into law this morning, is a milestone in the history of Nigeria. (Hear, hear) It is an act of faith; it is a proclamation to the world that we here in this country intend to create and maintain a class of security which

shall indeed be secure. This is an act of maturity not to be lightly undertaken. For in creating a class of trustee securities, we are automatically making Nigeria and ourselves into trustees, for the well-being and safety of these securities will depend upon the well-being and safety of Nigeria and that in the ultimate depends upon the acts and utterances of all of us. And when I say of all of us, I claim the right to include myself and others of my race—and there are many of us—to whom Nigeria is no mere geographical expression. . . . (Hear, hear). . . . no mere transitory place of abode, but a country with whose well-being our own fortunes and happiness are inter-woven; a country with whose nationals we believe partnership and friendship are, and will continue to be, realities. (Applause).

During the brief time that I have had the privilege of sitting in this House, I have learnt that it has a tradition of plain speaking and I have also learnt that it has a tradition of generosity when the occasion arises. You will be aware, Sir, that there is in England a bird called the swan, and one of its last acts before it dies is to sing. Thus the expression "a swan's song" is applied to a last appearance or a farewell performance. For anyone listening to the debates of last week, it would be unrealistic not to face up to the fact that there have been veiled and oblique suggestions, and many not veiled or oblique, that certain hon. Gentlemen opposite me may be singing their swan song. Into that controversy it would be impertinent for me to step, but I think it is reasonable to assume that this important Bill, of which all Nigeria may be proud, was brought to the House very largely by those hon. Gentlemen and they must have played a considerable part in bringing it forward. Therefore I believe the House this morning will be generous enough to admit that the song which this Bill sings is a harmony in which all can join without discord.

Personally, I have no ambition to become a swan, though it is an elegant and graceful bird. (Laughter). But Parliament is all powerful. No less a person than the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has reminded us on more than one occasion that Parliament has the power of turning a man into a woman. How much more easily therefore must we assume that Parliament can turn a man into a swan! (Laughter).

If it should transpire, therefore, that I too must fly, I shall look back afterwards with pride upon the recollection that one of my last songs was in support of this Bill, in other words in praise of an act of faith by Nigeria in which I wholeheartedly join. (Prolonged Applause).

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): Mr Speaker, I can understand the confidence of my hon. friend Mr Daldry in feeling that some day—I don't know when—he might take wings and fly like a swallow. Well, after all those who sit on that side of the House can prophesy with confidence that some day they would fly because it is easy for them to borrow feathers from hon. Onyia. (Laughter). Unfortunately, I don't think that I would ever have access to those feathers and I would be satisfied always to remain on terra firma here, singing whatever song is possible on earth in praise of whatever laudable effort is made by the Government of the day (Hear, hear).

Well, I think in a matter of this kind we can all rely on the judgment of hon. Daldry. A subject like this is one which calls for a lot of experience and imagination, and as he has described this Bill as one showing faith by Nigerians in themselves, we can congratulate ourselves that we have attained a stage where we can demonstrate confidence in ourselves. I would, however, say that we—I would not say only on this side of the House but I think on all sides of the House—have grown to respect men of the calibre of Mr Daldry, not as a foreigner in this country but as one of ourselves. . . . (Hear, hear). . . . and we say that not with a view to flattering him. Whatever may be the future of this country, we are looking forward to remaining as members of the commonwealth. (Hear, hear) And in future, as now, we shall still regard Mr Daldry and others of his class as brothers in common quest for freedom, increased measure of freedom, not only for Nigeria but for the whole part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. (Cheers).

Now, on the Bill just presented I have no quarrel at all excepting to underline one important fact. When trusts are created by the Government, the Government now indicates that trustees can only invest in certain types of securities. In law, generally, those securities that are safe to invest in are known and trustees who invest in those securities are more or less automatically protected by law. But I would

issue a warning here that the Government would always grant discretion, or allow trustees to exercise a good deal of discretion. Would it mean that henceforth trustees would no longer be free to invest in any security excepting those that are declared by the Government of the Federation as trustee securities, or that they would be free to invest in other securities at their own risk? Normally in law, they would be free in the United Kingdom to invest in any security whatsoever, provided that if they do invest in any other security it would be at their own risk absolutely.

An hon. Member: No.

Chief S. L. Akintola: My friend has said no, and I would ask for his authority for saying that a trustee is not empowered to invest even in hazardous undertakings. He can do so provided that if it fails, he would be prepared to make good the loss. I would like any authority to show that he dare not, or that he must not. I would not say that it is not safe all the time to do so, but I would not like our law to be interpreted in such a way that trustees throughout the whole country must not invest in any security excepting those that are declared by the Governor-General.

I hope that the hon. Financial Secretary will not misunderstand my point. I am not suggesting that trustees are perfectly free to meddle with their trusts in any shape or form. The beneficiaries must be protected and the aim of this is to protect them, but when we do that there must be a limit, and we cannot deprive the trustees altogether of the benefit of the exercise of their own discretion.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill and I entirely agree with hon. Daldry that this is an act of faith in the maturity of this country. Now, Sir, not many people realise that, apart from Government, there are other trustees who find difficulty in carrying out their trusts because of a lack of an Ordinance of this nature. I refer to many people in this country who have had to make a will and appoint trustees. In very many cases these trustees find it very difficult to carry out their assignments, because the law governing trustees and their duties, is very very strict. It is so strict that any semblance of carelessness is considered a dereliction of duty.

In the past, many such trustees did not know what to do with the funds entrusted

to their care, and in many cases the trustee renounced his trust and the Administrator-General, as Public Trustee, found himself burdened with a lot more work than originally had been intended for him.

In the past legal practitioners found it very difficult to give advice to such trustees because there was no law covering any trusts, or trust securities, in this country.

Now, Sir, this Bill brings great relief to such people. Formerly, in such cases, one would have had to get a court's opinion to know what was safe, but with a Bill of this nature, it is put down that securities of this nature are trustee securities, and the trustee can safely invest funds knowing that he is protected, and that the degree of care required by the law from him has been satisfied. And so, Sir, such a new law giving such privilege and latitude is very welcome. As the hon. Financial Secretary has told us there are many trust funds owned by the Government of this country which have had to be invested abroad, simply because we have not had a law of this nature before.

To refer to my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, this Bill does not in any Clause say that all trust funds must be invested in the trustee securities just created, so it was not necessary for him to raise that point, because the Bill makes no such provision. But, I wonder as a member of the Bar, whether he would advise any trustee who comes for advice after this Bill has been passed, to invest in any fund other than those which have just been given trustee status. He would not, and that is the point, and lawyers and knowledgeable businessmen well know what to do with trust funds in their hands. Anybody who would advise a trustee to invest in any security other than that which has just been given trustee status, would naturally be taking great risks and I know that no successful businessman or wise businessman would take such risks. That is the point.

We are very happy, Sir, that Government has also seen fit to extend this trustee status to the stocks of the Corporations which we have just established. Members will notice that each of these Corporations,—the Nigerian Coal Corporation, the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Nigerian Railway Corporation—each of them has got financial provision: that is, they are able to borrow money and create stocks. Now that

their stocks are given trustee status naturally that will lead businessmen to invest their funds without fear, and I think that will assist these Corporations in the exercise of their borrowing power. In every respect, Sir, this Bill is very welcome, especially as it has shown the world that Nigeria is taking the right step to establish herself as a nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. (Applause).

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, it will be a sad reflection on the House if—quite apart from the legal battles and the expert advice given by the hon. Daldry—an ordinary Nigerian who knows no law—not that he is lawless, but that he does not know the law—and a man who has no experience of big business, does not realise that this is his money and his security that we are talking about, and that money instead of being invested abroad is going to be invested in this country and given such a security as other such investments have overseas.

Long before I could understand anything about high finance and the legality of it, I had heard frequent complaints from those who knew and from those who did not know what they were talking about, which showed a suspicion that everything was not going well. Maybe they had balances in their N.A.s, or some other Corporation, and they saw that their money was being invested abroad, and they were furious and asked why this money could not be used at home, and why must this country go about borrowing money while we have balances which are invested abroad.

What the hon. Financial Secretary told us this morning rather opened my eyes. It seems that all that is necessary is that a bit of paper be brought and somebody to say this is now being given legal backing, and these are now trusts and this money can now be invested in the country, and so on. If that is all that there is to it, why had it not been done before? If before now our money had been invested abroad—I do not know for how many years, you may have knowledge of that—if, by bringing in some Bill here to give it legality, that is all that is necessary, I wonder why it had not been done before and why it has taken so long to do it.

But that is looking at it from one side only. As the hon. Mr Daldry has said it is a sign of maturity. It means that when our money was being invested abroad that this country was not

considered grown up enough for such a thing to be done here. Maybe the cause was due to lack of opportunity, maybe it was due to the fact that the Government was not stable enough. As a matter of fact was there a Government as we have now? There was not. It was a Government of officials and businessmen; gradually the transformation came about, and now in this House we are asked to give validity to a Bill which is going to give us the facilities to invest funds in our own country, at least that is what it seems like from a layman's point of view. I see now that our growth is being recognised by this law, without knowing all the intricate details of it, and as such I shall be very happy to tell people that this country is not only grown up, but is regarded in law as grown up enough to be trusted with the funds of its own country.

Sir, this means quite a lot as has been explained to us. It means this to me: I am a member of this Trusteeship; I am a member of the body that is guaranteeing the security of any investment in this country. And if I am a member, then it means that I must guard these investments like a basket of eggs. I must not throw stones on other people's lest they throw stones at my eggs. If the people are going to invest money in my own country along with my own money, well then it means that I am going to be very careful what I do, what I say so that my basket of eggs could be secure. Well, probably that is merely talking in imagery. What it means then is that our Government has really got to feel itself grown up and our politicians and our Legislators must be fully grown up in their utterances whether at home or abroad, that everything we say now will be interpreted to mean that that is the representative of the people and what he says and feels, that is the pulse of the country. Therefore, we should be very careful to see that this tender plant which has now grown up is not destroyed by any irresponsibility on the part of any of us.

Sir, I would even go further. One can dare to hope that the funds of other countries can be invested in Nigeria in the same way as our funds have been invested abroad, provided that we prove faithful and provided we prove that our Government can be stable. Therefore, this has come to us as a challenge even though it has come as an approbation as well, a challenge to put on the toga of maturity and to retain it and to grow from strength to strength.

We are very grateful even though it might be the swan song of the Member of the Council of Ministers who brought it. Whether that is so or not, the good song always lingers on after the singer has sung it. This is a good song and if the hon. the Financial Secretary's name and other members of the Council of Ministers are linked with it, well it will be a good song to remember them by. (Applause).

The Financial Secretary of the Federation (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Mr Daldry and the hon. Chief Solaru for stating with considerably greater eloquence than I can how important this legislation really is, and it is because it is so important that I just want to remove one possible misunderstanding that might be in the mind of the public.

There is nothing, Sir, in this legislation which in any way compels or directs trustees to do anything. Trustees must form their own judgment in terms of the Trust which they are administering. It is possible that a Trust may authorise the trustees to invest in equity shares or building society funds or even in real estate. What this legislation is concerned with is the situation where there are no such specific provisions in a Trust and the trustees, therefore, must invest in so-called trustee stock. By legislating to provide that local Nigerian Government securities shall be trustee stock within Nigeria, we are only making it possible for the trustee so to invest. We are not forcing him to do so, as the hon. Chief Solaru has suggested, the future decision of the trustees will, of course, depend on the general credit-worthiness and responsibility of the Government of Nigeria.

Question, That the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second Time, and immediately considered in Committee.

House in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): An explanation to clause 4, Sir. "The trustee shall not be liable for a breach of trust". If the investment had ceased to be such as had been authorised by the provision of this Ordinance, what happens? I do not quite follow that, Sir, it is a little dark to me and I wish some light on it.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation** (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will do my best to throw some light on it. The purpose of this clause is to ensure that a trustee shall not be liable for breach of trust, if he has invested in an investment or security which this Ordinance says he is entitled to invest in, and if at some later stage that particular security ceased to be a security for the purposes of this Ordinance.

**Chief Solaru**: If that is the explanation, has that any connection with any of the Corporations under the Schedule? Are you having a suspicion that one or other of them might cease to come within the provisions of this Ordinance?

**The Attorney-General of the Federation**: The answer is, no, Sir. But there might at some time be some particular Corporation in the Schedule which Government might decide to remove from the Schedule and it will cover such a point.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

#### SALE OF PRODUCE (TAXATION) BILL

Order for Second reading read.

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation** (Mr F. D. C. Williams): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance entitled "The Sale of Produce (Taxation) Ordinance" be now read a second time.

Before I outline the background and purpose of this Bill, I feel that I ought to set at rest the minds of any hon. Members who may possibly have imagined that the aim of this measure is to impose fresh taxes on produce sales in Lagos. That is not the intention at all. As is explained in the Objects and Reasons, this Bill merely seeks to set up machinery by which it can be ensured that rates of produce sales tax in the Western Region and in Lagos can be kept in step whilst preserving the constitutional prerogative of the Federal Government to levy taxes in Lagos. No changes in the actual rates of tax are contemplated at present.

The need for this measure arises from the fact that the Western Regional Government is now introducing a Bill which will supersede,

so far as the Western Region is concerned, the existing Sales of Produce (Taxation) Ordinance. That Ordinance, which was enacted by the then Central Government in 1953, provides that sales taxes may be levied on produce sold to the Marketing Boards. When the present Federal Constitution came into force in 1954, the Ordinance was, in accordance with decisions reached at the Resumed Constitutional Conference in January, 1954, adapted to provide that the Western Regional Government should receive the full proceeds of sales taxes levied on produce sold to the Western Regional Marketing Board on the Lagos produce market. This was done because produce sold in Lagos emanates from the Western Region.

As I have said, the Western Regional Government is now introducing a Bill to supersede the old Central Government Ordinance in so far as that Region is concerned. The first three parts of this new Western Bill deal with produce sold to the Western Regional Marketing Board, and it departs in two main respects from the old Ordinance.

Firstly, the Western Regional Marketing Board will itself account for the sales taxes due instead of the licensed buying agents accounting for the taxes as they do at the moment. This change is designed to simplify the collection of the taxes and is merely a change in accounting responsibility.

Secondly, the existing Ordinance prescribed the produce which can be taxed and the maximum rates of tax which can be levied. It went on to provide that the Governor-General in Council could vary the rates of tax on a Resolution of the Regional Legislature concerned. The new Bill will provide that in so far as the Western Region is concerned, a Resolution of the Regional House may impose, repeal or vary taxes on produce sold to the Western Regional Marketing Board.

It is, of course, in accordance with the division of powers under the present Constitution that the Western Regional Legislature should be responsible for taxation on these sales within the Western Region without reference to the Governor-General in Council.

Nevertheless, it is necessary for the Federal Government to enact similar legislation because certain produce is sold to the Western Regional Marketing Board on the Lagos produce beach and constitutionally only the Federal House

of Representatives can legislate to authorise the levying of taxes on sales within Lagos even though the proceeds of such taxes will continue to pass to the Western Region. The Western Regional Government, therefore, has requested the Federal Government to enact an ordinance similar to that part of their Bill which deals with Marketing Board produce, and it is in response to that request this Bill is before the House-to-day.

It is obviously desirable that all produce sold to the Western Regional Marketing Board should be subject to the same rates of tax irrespective of whether it is sold in the Western Region or in Lagos. Yet, as I have said, only the Federal Government can tax sales in Lagos. What is required, therefore, is machinery to enable the Federal Government to vary the rates of tax on produce sold to the Marketing Board within Lagos, so soon as the Western Regional legislature varies the rates of tax it imposes.

This Bill, therefore, empowers, but does not compel, the Governor-General in Council to impose, repeal and vary sales taxes on produce sold in Lagos to the Western Regional Marketing Board on a request to do so from the Governor of the Western Region, provided that a Resolution having the same effect within the Western Region has been passed by the Western Legislative House. The proceeds of these sales taxes will, of course, continue to be paid to the Western Regional Government.

I mentioned earlier that it is only the first three parts of the new Western Regional Bill that deal with produce sold to the Western Regional Marketing Board. The fourth part of that Bill provides for the introduction of a sales tax within the Western Region on produce other than that which is sold to the Marketing Board. The relevant clauses are enabling clauses—that is to say, they provide the legal basis for the introduction of such taxes, but neither the nature of the produce concerned nor the rates of tax proposed have yet been determined. This aspect of the new Western Regional legislation does not concern the Federal Government, since it is a domestic matter affecting only the Western Region and the Federal Bill that is now before the House therefore deals solely in the matter I have explained, with Marketing Board produce already taxed under the 1953 Sale of Produce (Taxation) Ordinance in accordance with the

decisions taken at the Resumed Conference on the Constitution in 1954.

In conclusion, Sir, I would therefore repeat that this Bill introduces no new taxation but confines itself to changing the machinery for imposing and collecting existing taxes on Marketing Board produce sold on the Lagos produce beach. Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry** (Mr R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question, That the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second Time and immediately considered in Committee.

House in Committee,

Clauses 1 to 10 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

Sitting suspended.

Sitting resumed.

#### WRECKS AND SALVAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. Abubakar Tawafa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Wrecks and Salvage Ordinance, Chapter 235, Revised Edition of the Laws 1948, be read a Second Time.

Sir, as stated in the "Objects and Reasons", this Bill is intended to remove certain provisions of the Wrecks and Salvage Ordinance relating to the holding of inquiries into shipping casualties which were repugnant to the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and consequently had no legal effect. Briefly the point is that whereas the United Kingdom Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 empowered overseas legislatures to authorise certain investigations into shipping casualties, this power did not extend to enquiries relating to ships belonging to Her Majesty. Sections 3 and 10 of the Wrecks and Salvage Ordinance which provide for the holding of these inquiries did, however, purport to cover Government ships. This Bill, Sir, puts this right by amending section 3 of the principal Ordinance so as specifically to exclude ships belonging either to Nigeria or to Her Majesty; and by amending section 10

which defines the circumstances in which inquiries may be held, so as to exclude all reference to Government ships.

If this Bill is passed it will be necessary to provide for inquiries where Government-owned ships are involved by means of an Order in Council under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906. I have no reason to believe, Sir, that there will be any difficulty over this.

Thus the effect of this Bill together with the Order in Council will not be to prevent inquiries being held into accidents relating to Government ships, but merely to regularise the statutory provisions under which the inquiries are held.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to Move.

**The Attorney General of the Federation** (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question Proposed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, without attempting to dabble in affairs which are very strange to me—I am a landlover myself, and I seldom travel on the high seas and so I do not expect to get shipwrecked—but all the same, Sir, I was going to observe that it is a very good thing that the Minister of Transport is very energetic in trying to bring this Bill in to apply to Government ships.

Now the first question I would like to ask him is—which Government ships? Has the Nigerian Government got any ships? If so, how many are there? Because this is not Inland Waterways we are thinking of now. If I am wrong in assuming that we are not thinking of Inland Waterways, please correct me, because if you are making a Bill merely to apply to our creeks and our rivers and our lagoons it may be, but if it means ships, which are quite a different proposition, it is the first news I have had that the Nigerian Government has got any ships. That is one quarrel that we have with the Government, that we have no shipping. We spend a lot of money on all our ports, *et cetera*, mainly to cater for foreign shipping, which are very welcome, but we would like to have some of our own.

It would therefore be an item of news which would indeed be very welcome, if the Minister would tell us what shipping the Nigerian Government has actually got. (Interruption). We have got bath tubs anyway.

**The Minister of Transport**: I am surprised that the hon. Member does not know that the Nigerian Government has some shipping....

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Some? How many?

**The Minister of Transport**: Yes, Sir, we have got seagoing craft, we have got colliers, and the hon. Members should remember....

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Minister had given them their proper names I should not have been surprised. When he says ships, does he mean dredgers and things like that?

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second Time and immediately considered in Committee.*

House in Committee.

*Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a small point. I believe that this is an adaptation of the Law of Wrecks and Salvage from the United Kingdom, and therefore it is such a surprise that we get the word "colony" occurring in about five or six lines. Since this is for the Federation of Nigeria we hope that we are not going to use this British word. We will have to bring in an Amendment very soon. If you are going to say colony, colony, all the time you mean the Colony Nigeria.

*Clause 4 agreed to.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Bill reported without Amendment.*

*Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third Time.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker Sir, I was waiting for the Minister of Transport to answer my question, and since he would not do so I would beg to remind him that he should bring in an amendment to this House. He says that he wants this Bill passed into law now; I would therefore ask that at the next opportunity he should bring in an amendment to amend the word "colony."

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

## POLICE AMENDMENT BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation** (Sir Ralph Grey): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move. That a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Police Ordinance (Chapter 172 of the Revised Edition of the Laws, 1948) be read a Second Time.

This is an extremely short Bill, Sir, the sole object of which is to make it possible for women to be appointed Special Constables. The section in the Law which provides for the appointment of Special Constables now reads—that "male persons not being below the age of eighteen years" may be appointed to serve. This was drafted and passed through the Legislature long years ago. Since then women have served very effectively as constables in the regular establishment of the Nigeria Police, and there is no reason why we should continue to subject them to the disability that they are unable, if they wish, to serve also as special constables.

So the Bill aims only at removing that one disability. As I said earlier in this meeting, Sir, it is the Government's intention later to bring in a Bill making comprehensive provision for special constables.

Sir I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr L. L. Lakunle** (Oyo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill I want to thank the Government for bringing it up at this time. We are now in an age when opportunities should be given to all people irrespective of their sex. That is why the Bill will be welcomed by all sides of the House.

When we were debating the Police Head some time last week I wanted to refer to the recruitment of women as regular constables, but there was no time, and I will, with the permission of the Speaker, refer to it for a moment now. We have seen our women regular constables and they have been trying to do their best. Well there is no reason why women should not be allowed to contribute their own quota as special constables.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of this House, about the recruit-

ment of women as Regular Constables, is that the recruitment is now at its initial stage, and I would appeal to the hon. Members to encourage the womenfolk of every tribe in Nigeria to come forward as Regular Constables. There have been complaints about the men police, that there has been tribal domination, and so on. Whether or not this is true, I do not want to prove, but I think it is a fact that every Member should admit that wherever you go they say, "Well, the Police Force is dominated by this tribe, or by that tribe, and unless you belong to that tribe"—I don't want to mention the tribe—"unless you belong to a certain tribe there is no prospect of promotion for you in the Force". Well, to avoid things of this nature, I would appeal to all hon. Members to let their womenfolk come forward now, so that we avoid the complaints which we now hear every day about men police.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama** (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is certainly non-controversial, and I am on my feet only to support it.

In all the civilised countries of the world, women participate in practically all the day-to-day affairs of their countries, side by side with the men. In the Federal territory of Lagos, and in one or two Provinces in the Northern Region, you do see policewomen in their smart uniforms, playing their part in the maintenance of law and order.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the above facts, appointment of women as Special Constables is simply a foregone conclusion. Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I think that this Amendment does not create any new position in the Police Force. It only regularises some irregularities, or, in other words, it seeks to legalise some illegal procedure that we have so far followed, and I don't see much to congratulate anybody upon in that. In any case, it would be a good thing for all members of our community, irrespective of sex, to be given full opportunity for voluntary service, but in my view that can be done without in any way debasing the womanhood of this country.

I don't think it is elegant, or that it is chivalrous on our part, to enlist women into the Police Force and allow them to be racing after the

Jaguda boys and pick-pockets. It is not feminine duty to keep on chasing pigs, and I think it is debasing the womanhood of this country, to charge women with that type of responsibility. I want it to be clearly understood that we, on this side of the House, do not quarrel with women being enlisted in the Police Force, but I think much is wrong in the type of duties now being assigned to them. Why cannot we allow women to do a lot of office work in the Police Department, taking down statements, examining people verbally, perhaps even going to Court, and leave the rather masculine type of duty of chasing people, and waylaying thieves—leave that to men, and get women to do the type of duty that is most suited to them. They may even do detective work; they are more suited to do that type of job. (*Interruption*).

If you want to get the truth from hon. Abii, I know the type of people who can do it effectively and they are more expert in that type of duty. I am saying this in all seriousness, and I will commend it to the kind consideration of the Government to discuss the matter fully with the Police Authorities, and see whether the type of duties for female police cannot be altered, in the way that, whatever they do, it would be more suited to their temperament and to the grace with which we associate women. That is my first observation.

The second observation I have is in connection with the uniform that they now wear. You see, after all, whether we like it or not, vanity (even they call it so) is part of the essential attributes of a woman. She must be able to change and look more attractive to-day than she did yesterday. Now the type of uniform that we give to them is actually destroying what will make the police duty attractive to women. I am not suggesting any particular type of uniform now, but I know that what you have now is not attractive enough to a good many of them.

**An hon. Member:** Nylon dress.

**Chief Akintola:** Well, maybe with some nylon or something of the type of nylon, something that allows of variety, you can create greater incentive to draw women into the Police Force. I don't know. But it is not necessary to make them film stars, though I think the present uniform is not good enough, and if there is sufficient consultation with the

people who know, it may be necessary to bring about a change.

Now, the next point I would like to mention is in connection with the question of salary. I think that the question of the salary of these Police Women requires looking into and that cannot be done in isolation it must be taken together with the whole of the salary structure given to the policemen. In my own humble opinion the salary scale for police is not adequate, and I think, if I can give some example, that it is based only on the standard of education—the minimum standard of education—necessary on entrance into the Police Force, but if they have the basic qualification, the basic educational qualification, you are expected to go to the Police Training College and spend perhaps six months, or nine months, as the case may be.

Well, it seems to me that sufficient importance has not been attached to this type of special training. We only stop at saying Class II Middle boys can enter the Police Force, and it is sufficient if we give them 98 or 100 and something, because they happen to come up from Class II. But it is not the Class II boys who enter the Police Force, it is the Class II boys who have been given special training in the Police College, and as such I think that a policeman who leaves the Police Training College should be given the same initial salary that a Middle VI or what you call Senior Cambridge boy, should be given. I think that should be the initial salary for all of them.

Now, this will be sufficient incentive to bring these people into the Police Force. *An hon. Member: . . . . . more realistic.* Well, whether I am earlistic or not, the fact remains that most of the younger men in the Police Force—those who care to find out—will realise that we are losing terribly at the moment, and I would like the Chief Secretary perhaps to enlighten the House.

When a young man enters the Force, he signs in the first instance for six years, until experienced. Now, for the greater part of the first six years he is being trained, and at the conclusion of this six-year period, when he has acquired the necessary training, when he will be of greater value to the country, he invariably refuses to sign for the second period. Why does he refuse? That is the time that we require his services most; he has become worth much more, he has gathered a lot of

experience, but most of them leave, having completed the first six years of their service.

Now this requires a lot of investigation. If the conditions are attractive enough, if the conditions are good enough, most of these young men would like to stay, to remain in the Police Force during these years when they could be of great advantage to the country as a whole.

In other respects, the Police duty is, I think, what it ought to be, apart from the question of pay, and also apart from the fact that those who enjoy the best conditions so far are the Police Constables who are stationed in big centres like Lagos, and maybe Port Harcourt, and the other members of the Force who are stationed outside do not enjoy the same benefit.

Housing is a big problem to a good many of them, and I think that if we want to attract other people to come and contribute to what the regular policemen are doing it is necessary for us to make the regular policemen themselves happy. If they are happy they would be useful material in advocating for other volunteers to come and join the force.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba):** Mr Speaker, I support this amendment and I wish to say that the experimental stage of the women police institution has passed and since the country has found it necessary to keep the institution going I would remind the Federal Government that it is not only in Lagos that women police should be encouraged to exist. There are important centres in the provinces where their services would be equally suitable, and I am asking in particular that places like Aba, where many strangers have come to pollute the town, it is very necessary to get women police to assist their men folk. The duties of special constables is a very courageous one and one that should be encouraged by the estate.

After all, everybody as a member of the community has to do his civic duties and when one volunteers to do that that would help the regular police. I remember during the War years what the special constables in Aba did, they assisted the regular police and everything was in order, so that if the womenfolk are encouraged to assist there will be a good check up on certain things that happen in the night, particularly things like dishonesty and immorality. The women are more fitted to do

these jobs, and I am sure that such centres like Port Harcourt, Enugu, Calabar and Aba as I have said before should have the advantage of the services of these people, the womenfolk.

Now, I would also like to state that the thousands of womenfolk in the service would be more suitable if they could be allowed to go to court and assist in the juvenile delinquency sections of Police jobs because they are more suited for handling children, because the men folk will be more of a terror to the children, instead of helping them to reform they might act as . . . . .

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Scare crows.

**Mr Ubani-Ukoma:** So, in short, I would like the institution to be extended to all parts of the Regions so that we might get the full services of these women police.

**Mr E. C. Ealey (Special Member):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill and have only to say that if the female special constables when recruited are as keen, as effective, and as public-spirited as their brothers in the Lagos Special Constabulary, then we shall all be very proud of them.

Now, Sir, this Bill strikes out the word "male" from the Police Ordinance and, therefore, I do not think it is out of place to mention a recent triumph of the men of the Nigeria Police Force. They have won, Sir, for the second year in succession the East-West Africa Shooting Cup. They defeated, among other teams, Ghana, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, Tanganyika and Uganda. Out of a maximum of 672 marks they scored 667 marks. We should all like to take this opportunity of congratulating the team, Sir.

**The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun):** I think this matter has been fully discussed, and so, Mr Speaker, I beg 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 a Second Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**Mr Z. B. Olokesusi (Ekiti South):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to make a few observations under Sect. on 2. In the anxiety to get our womenfolk to enrol voluntarily as constables, I think the Chief Secretary will take into consideration the age and the health of the people enrolled as constables. The other time—without actually wanting to derogate from the voluntary services that our womenfolk are giving—the type of a very young girl I saw at Tinubu the other time is not a suitable constable and I think that when the Chief Secretary is discussing this matter with the Inspector-General of Police the standard to be considered for admitting our womenfolk into the constabulary should be that that will actually give honour to our women who are matured for the kind of jobs that they are expected to do.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** There is a point, I am afraid I do not want to repeat myself—but I would like the advice of the Chief Secretary on the point. Is he satisfied with the type of duties that are now assigned to the women police and would he consider going into the question of changing it a little bit so that they will do more of the office work, at the station, work in the courts and do a bit of work in the juvenile police court as has been indicated here?

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Rulph Grey):** Mr Chairman, if I could be sure that I might answer that question without being ruled out of order, I would certainly do so.

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Bill to be reported.*

*Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Third Time and passed.*

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to pay tributes to the work of Special Constables, in particular, Constables of the Eastern Region, during the last General Election. (*Hear, hear*). I am sure that the women Special Constables when enlisted into the scene will do the same work both in the Eastern Region and elsewhere. These Special Constables are those who have

succeeded in tracking down and driving out the hooligans that came from where I think Members of this House know. (*Interruption*). I think they are now very peaceful.

Mr Speaker, I wish to point out at this stage that the Leader of the Opposition mentioned that decent uniform should be provided for the women Special Constables but I wish to point out, here and now, that other than in Lagos, it would appear that serious action is not taken to provide Special Constables with uniforms in time. I refer especially to the case of Ikot Ekpene. If women Special Constables are appointed in that town and are not provided with uniforms, I am quite sure the public will have much difficulty in identifying them as such.

During the last General Elections in the Eastern Region, Special Constables had no uniforms, the Police Officer said that they were providing uniforms but they had khaki shirts and shorts and a beret and nothing more so that the uniform is not complete. They had blue bands with S.C. written in white and these were very ineffective but I should thank the Electors that they were able to treat them and regard them as Special Constables, even when they were not in uniform. If women Special Constables are appointed, they should be provided with uniforms straight away, so that they can be easily identified by the public and this will make their work very effective.

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

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** The Chief Secretary has acted with very great expedition in bringing in this Amendment; he deserves to be congratulated, even if only on this solitary occasion. Sir, I think he would add more laurels to his brow if he would now answer the question which he refused to answer because it was out of order. I suppose it would be in order now if he answers that question, wouldn't it?

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation:** The answer is "yes", Sir.

*Question, That the Bill be now read a Third Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a third time and passed.*

THE EDUCATION (LAGOS) BILL—  
SECOND READING

**The Minister of Social Services (The hon. Aja Nwachuku):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move

that a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Education in the Federal Territory of Lagos, to provide for Universal free Primary Education and the establishment of an Education Authority in such Federal Territory, and for matters relating thereto", be read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to give legal effect to the principles approved by this House in the 1955 White Paper on Education. I am sure Members will have read this Bill carefully and will have noticed that all the principles set out in the White Paper have been included.

A full summary of the Bill is given in The Objects and Reasons and there is perhaps little need for me to go through the Bill in detail; but there are one or two points of a general nature which I should like to mention at this stage.

The present Ordinance No. 17 of 1952 is obsolete in several respects. Under that Ordinance an official, The Chief Education Officer, Lagos, is not only responsible very largely for educational policy and execution in the Federal Capital but is also Chairman of the Lagos Board of Education whose functions are to advise on educational matters for Lagos.

All Members of this House will, I am sure, agree that the time has come when a responsible Minister should assume full responsibilities for education policy in Lagos, rather than an official. The administration of education as distinct from the policy will become the responsibility of the Local Education Authority by Clause 5 of the Bill which provides that the Minister may by order establish the Lagos Town Council as the Local Education Authority. This Authority will be advised by a local education committee which will replace the present Lagos Board of Education.

Pending the establishment of the Lagos Town Council as the Local Education Authority, the administration of the education in Lagos will be carried out by the Chief Federal Adviser on Education who will be advised by a committee composed of the persons listed in Clause 1 of the Schedule to this Bill. The committee as so composed will be an interim committee and when the Local Education Authority is established its composition will be modified. At that time it would be appropriate that the committee should be composed largely of nominees of the Local Education Authority by representatives of Voluntary Agencies, who

have a wide experience of educational work throughout Nigeria, and would continue to be represented on the committee.

There are three further points to which I should like to invite attention. The first concerns the rights of school proprietors. In the interests of Education it may be necessary to order the closure of schools which are inefficient; it may also be necessary to remove a proprietor or manager. These matters are dealt with in Clauses 28, 30 and 36, but full provision for appeal is included and I think Members may agree that no injustice is likely to be caused under these clauses to proprietors or managers, particularly since they provide for compensation if a school is publicly acquired from proprietors who are conducting it inefficiently.

The second point concerns Religious Instruction. Clauses 53-60 have been very carefully drafted to ensure that the religious instruction given to children will conform with the wishes of their parents.

The third general point which has already been raised at this meeting of the House concerns children above registration age, i.e., children who are over six years old. Provision for registration of such children is made in Clauses 16 (1) (b) and in Clause 22.

This Bill includes the principles for a new policy and administration of Education in Lagos. Changes in finance have already been provided for in the Education (Grant-in-aid) (Amendment) Regulations, 1957. These also gave legal form to the principles regarding finance approved when this House endorsed the 1955 White Paper on Education.

In conclusion, I should perhaps mention that the Lagos Board of Education has studied the Draft Bill and has expressed agreement with it.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Transport (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):** Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr J. I. Izah (Aboh):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I wish to congratulate the Minister and the Ministry for the able way in which this Bill, providing free Primary Education, has been tackled. In the other Regions, Sir, free Primary Education has been inaugurated in spite of the lateness

of such a policy in Lagos here, we welcome the fact that it is now practicable for the boys and girls of Lagos to enjoy rights which the other Regions, the West and the East, do now enjoy.

I think, Sir, that the provisions in this Education Bill for Lagos is about the best, compared with those that are already in existence. We know that in the West the project, though grand and magnificent, was destroyed by the haste with which it was tackled. In the East also Sir, it was not able to be well thrashed out. But in the Federal Territory here Sir, we are happy that the Government of the Federation has profited tremendously from the mistakes of the other Regions. But when I congratulate the Ministry and welcome the implementation of this project in Lagos here, I feel Sir, that there are certain omissions which the Government could have availed itself of the opportunity to put aright.

We know that for a long time now there is a class of people, a class of responsible citizens of this country, who have volunteered, in spite of difficulties, to give up themselves to the development of education in this country, and I had thought that this is an occasion when the Government will not only take cognizance of the services of this class of people but also rectify what has been wrong for so many years.

**Mr Speaker :** It does appear to me that the hon. Member is making remarks of a general character applicable to the whole country. This is only a Lagos Bill.

**Mr Izah :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am speaking to this Bill and I realise it is a Bill that will operate only in the Federal territory of Lagos. It is the affair of teachers in Lagos, Sir. It is not a new matter. It is a matter which has been brought to the notice of the Minister and to the Ministry that if the Government expect energetic and well qualified young men of this country to go into the teaching profession, it is right now that the Government must come out with a scheme to eliminate those causes of frustration which teachers suffer in the country. I refer particularly to the service conditions.

I had thought that this Bill would contain a schedule in which a uniform service condition will be outlined, a condition which will apply to all voluntary agency organisations in Lagos, Sir. But now, Sir, we know that teachers are

left to the whims and caprices of various school proprietors and managers. You find a condition existing in this school and in another school you find another condition. Why can't the Government come out with a schedule which should accompany this Bill outlining a sort of general condition that would bind teachers as a class?

In the Civil Service, Sir, there is the *General Orders*, there is your *Financial Instructions*, and a lot of other instructions which make the whole Service one and uniform. In the teaching profession, why can't the Government come out with such a proposal?

While we support this Bill, Sir, we feel that there has been a grave omission because this Bill provided the opportunity for amending all that has been wrong in the past, but the Ministry continues to treat this matter with contempt and frightening off people who could have otherwise gone into the teaching profession, in Lagos, Sir. (Laughter).

**Mr Speaker :** The insertion of the phrase "in Lagos" again and again does not make the whole argument quite the type that you would use in a speech only on this Bill. I think the hon. Member really is considering at the back of his mind the teaching profession throughout the country.

**Mr Izah :** No, Sir, I am speaking on behalf of teachers in Lagos area.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** Don't argue with the Chair.

**Mr Izah :** I am not arguing at all. To speak more particularly to the Bill, Sir, we welcome it, particularly the aspect where parents have been given an opportunity to decide what school their children will go to. That is in clause 14 of the Bill. It is a realistic approach and the Ministry should be congratulated for that approach.

But in clauses 21 to 22 of the Bill there are a lot of things which I am afraid the Ministry has not quite addressed itself to studying. It says there, for instance, Sir, that "no person shall order a pupil or his parents to purchase or cause to be purchased any article, including uniforms, books, equipment, for use in a maintained primary school". Well, there is too much emphasis on "any article". I wonder how that part of the Bill shall be implemented because, besides ruling out the

question of school uniforms, Sir, we know that school uniforms, although it is not so easy for some parents to provide them, lend something attractive to school children and I feel that the Ministry could have made that point optional, that any parent who could afford to provide a school uniform for his boy or girl would be given the opportunity to do so.

And it says too that maintained primary schools should not appeal for or permit an appeal to pupils for subscriptions. I realise that the project is free and the Government provides the necessary funds for everything. But I feel once again that the wording of this part of the Bill is too hard to be practicable. It says—"primary schools shall not appeal or permit an appeal to pupils for subscriptions". Well, we who are in the profession know that occasions have occurred when, not beggars as such, Sir, but people suffering from some disability came into the school and the class teacher allowed the pupils to offer something they can afford to such a beggar, not necessarily a professional beggar, Sir. But in the way I understand this part of the Bill, Sir, it seems it precludes such voluntary dash to various persons.

And it says, Sir—"No person shall offer for sale or permit the sale of any article. . . ." Again, well, probably that part of the Bill is drafted to sweep off booksellers and managers who put up bookshops within the premises but I think again that aspect of the Bill could have been made more specific than it stands now, Sir.

On the whole, Sir, I think it is a Bill which will commend itself to this House if only the Ministry will take note of the points I have made about the conditions of service for the people who will make or unmake this Bill.

We can all say "aye" and pass it, but there is a strong body outside only through whose co-operation we can have this Bill fully implemented.

**Mr Speaker,** Sir, before I finally resume my seat there is a question which I would like the Ministry to consider. That is the question of pension rights for teachers in Lagos Schools. We know, Sir, that teachers have now been recognised as pensionable persons, that is, after they have attained a certain age they will be eligible for a pension, but even with

this offer, Sir, teachers in Lagos still feel there is some discrimination against them in that offer. This is in regard to the pension constant given to teachers. In the Civil Service it is 1/720 but in the teaching profession it is 1/960. Well, we thought that the Ministry, once it had gone all out on such a project to maintain all primary schools, had decided to bridge the gap and do away with all the discriminations within the teaching profession.

This is a serious point which I wish the Ministry would consider because our young men are not prepared to serve in any Department, or under any organisation where they might in their old age realise they have made a mistake in their choice of a profession. Lagos teachers cannot see why if the Civil Service can have uniform conditions of service, they cannot also have them, not only in their initial basic pay but even in the treatment they receive whilst giving most of their life to this profession. They want a pension the same as their fellow counterparts receive in the Civil Service.

This is a nationalistic Government, Sir, and it is a Government of our own people and when we put these views and grievances to it, it should tackle them fairly, for it should know what keeps our young men from going into a different profession and changing about from one Department to another. This state of affairs in the teachers' case must be looked into and put right.

Sir, with these few observations, I support.

**Mr P. H. Okolo (Onitsha) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill and I have just a few comments to make. It appears to me Sir, that there is a very important omission in this Bill. I wish to associate myself with what the last speaker has said, and I would like to refer to the question of service conditions for teachers. We expected the Lagos Education Ordinance to give the lead to the Ordinance and Education laws for the Regions, but I feel that this is short of the provisions made in all other Regions. In the Western Region, for example, Section 65 of the Education Law reads: "65 (1) There shall be established a terms of service Committee which shall advise the Minister on the remuneration, terms and conditions of service of teachers who are employed in public institutions and



of all persons who are otherwise employed in the service of public education in the Region."

Now, our Federal Education Ordinance is silent on this. There is only a casual mention of it in section 61 where it says: "61 (r) The Governor-General may by regulation prescribe or provide for the salaries, allowances and conditions of service of teachers..." But, Sir, this appears under the Regulations, not under the Ordinance so that it is difficult to know from what section of the Ordinance the Minister is making up these Regulations.

The question of terms and conditions of service for teachers should appear in the main Ordinance as it does in the West. If you take the English Education Act of 1944, Section 39 (1) reads: "The Minister shall secure that for the purpose of considering the remuneration of teachers there shall be one or more committees approved by him consisting of persons appointed by bodies representing local education authorities and teachers respectively, and it shall be the duty of any such committee to submit to the Minister whenever they think fit or whenever they may be required by him so to do..."

Sir, this is a provision made in the English Education Act in the main Ordinance, not in the Regulations, because I say Regulations are made from the Ordinance, but there is no Ordinance empowering the Federal Government to provide for terms and conditions of service for teachers. We know how much teachers here have been suffering, and how they have been scared away, as the last speaker has said, Sir, it is because they do not find sufficient incentive to go into the teaching profession. It is the terms and conditions of service that determines their salaries, allowances, pensions, and so forth, and they must be made attractive enough to get our young men into this profession.

Sir, that is why I say this is a very important omission on the part of our Minister. This matter should not be relegated to the background by bringing it in only under the Regulations and not under the Ordinance.

The same thing would appear on the question of Teachers' Councils. Sir, all the Regions have provided Councils to deal with specific cases for teachers, but no provision has been made in this Ordinance. I hope therefore

the Minister will not wait until a substantive Motion is brought to this House on this subject, before he revises this.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are all the points I wanted to raise. I beg to support.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City):** Mr Speaker, Sir, it is true, Sir, that education has been regionalised but we cannot help feeling that the Federal Government will certainly do very well if it does anything towards education for the good of the Federal Territory, because all the other Regional Governments will copy them. It is for that matter, therefore, that we are asking the Federal Government to do everything possible in order that they may make this free primary education in Lagos so attractive that the Regional Governments will copy them.

One cannot help feeling, Sir, that with the introduction of the free primary education in Lagos it is necessary that teachers must come into the show and the service conditions for them must be considered. We have always said on the floor of this House that if we really want education, or anything concerning education to be implemented, it is absolutely necessary to make the service conditions for teachers such as will attract our young men into the profession. If, therefore, Sir, we would like this free primary education for Lagos to be a blessing and not a curse, it is necessary right from now that we make the service conditions for the teachers in Lagos such as will satisfy them.

I am afraid that there has been very little done in this new Bill to show that the service conditions for the teachers in Lagos will be considered, and as such, Sir, I regret to say that this will scare away our young men from the teaching profession, and discourage others from entering into it.

Another thing is this. Wherever free primary education is introduced, you find that there are so many children that will be streaming to the Education Department in order to get admission to the junior primary schools and as such, therefore, there will be more need in fact than there has normally been for more schools. It has come to our notice quite recently, Sir, that there are so many children that have not been able to go to school (1) because they are above age and (2) because perhaps there are not enough schools.

I therefore ask the Federal Government in that respect to try to see that they build as many schools as possible so that those children whose age is above that of going to school can be accommodated elsewhere. This is necessary so that we may not do away with the good products that might have been useful as future citizens and leaders of Nigeria.

Now, Sir, with this I would like to go further. If we are producing more schools in the country, junior primary schools, it is necessary also that we get more higher schools in order to match with the products that will be leaving the junior primary schools and entering higher schools. If, therefore, we want this junior primary education to be a blessing, as I said earlier, we must also have as many higher schools as possible. In all big towns, I have realised—and Lagos is not an exception to that rule—there is a tendency for the education authorities (I am not speaking from experience, Mr Speaker) for the sons of the well-to-do parents to get admission leaving the sons of the poorer parents behind, even though they may be intelligent. I am asking the Minister to take this into consideration so that when children are going to higher schools they may be considered on merit and not on the question of their well-to-do parents.

In Lagos here, I have been really disappointed to see that there has been very little encouragement forthcoming for the sons of the Hausas that have been living in this country for quite a long time. I agree part of the fault is theirs. At the same time the Education Authorities or the Minister himself should fold his sleeves and try to get these people to have a school or to go to school. These Hausas are part and parcel of the people of Lagos and as such, they must be equally considered as other people living in Lagos. I would certainly like to see Hausas being encouraged and sent to school. If you find you cannot send them to the same school (and I would like them to go to the same school) please build them a separate school; but I would prefer to see them going to the same school. That is what I am after.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East):** Mr Speaker, in making his speech on the Second Reading of this Bill the hon. Minister said he was not doing anything new; he was merely putting into legal form the policy in his White

Paper which was approved by this House. In that White Paper there is only one unique feature and that is the arrangement to constitute the Lagos Town Council as the Local Education Authority. To me, it is nothing strange. It is inescapable. Why? Because Lagos Town Council is going to bear not an inconsiderable portion of the running costs of primary education in Lagos.

The Minister says that he will be responsible for the policy of education in Lagos and that administration also would be his responsibility. That may be right as far as it goes. But if the Federal Government is not going to be solely responsible for costs, at least the recurrent costs, of education in Lagos, it is only right that the other people who are going to share in the running costs should be closely associated with the policy-making and also with the administration of education in Lagos. I said the cost of primary education in Lagos (and when I say cost I mean the recurrent cost) is going to be borne jointly by the Federal Government and the Lagos Town Council, and therefore it is nothing strange that the Minister is shedding some of his responsibility to the Local Education Authority whenever it is formed.

First, Mr Speaker, when I carefully look into the Bill I am not very well assured of the future of the Local Education Authority. Under section 4 (2) of this new Bill, before the formation of the Local Education Authority it is possible that all the functions of the Local Education Authority can be exercised by the Chief Federal Adviser on Education. That is before the formation of the local education authority itself. Under that section, Sir, it is possible that as long as the local education authority is not established in Lagos, all the functions that are ultimately to be transferred to the local education authority would continue to be exercised by the Chief Federal Adviser on Education.

When I recall that it is some time now that arrangements have been going on between the Lagos Town Council and the Ministry to create the Lagos Town Council as local education authority, I do not think it is too much if I confess my worry that by further delaying the constitution of Lagos Town Council as the local education authority, the Chief Federal Adviser on Education will be usurping in the meantime all the functions of the local education authority.

Mr Speaker, Sir, under the same subsection—subsection (3)—the Minister appears to do something that is even more distressing. Under the subsection, Sir, it is very possible for the Minister to whittle down completely all the powers of the local education authority even when it is formed. Before the formation, the Minister had the power to direct that the Chief Federal Adviser on Education carries out all the functions that fall on the local education authority, and even when it is formed, it is within his power too to transfer to the Federal Adviser on Education all the functions of the local education authority.

In support of my argument, I humbly refer, Sir, to section 10 of the Ordinance of the proposed scheme where the Minister specifically made provision for the default of the local education authority. There is nothing wrong under section 10 (2) and it is my humble submission that with 10 (2) it is absolutely unnecessary to make provision for 4 (3). Clause 4 (3), Sir, is a blank cheque, and with your permission I read: "Notwithstanding the establishment of a Local Education Authority, the Minister may from time to time if he thinks fit by order provide for continued vesting in the Chief Federal Adviser on Education, of such of the functions of the Authority as he may specify in such order." With that, Sir, it is my humble submission that the local education authority may be reduced to a functionless body.

I would again refer to subsection (2) of section 10, with which nobody will quarrel. Where the Minister is satisfied that the local education authority has defaulted in the functions assigned to it under section 6, surely nobody will quarrel with the Minister using all his powers. As I said at the beginning of my speech, we may be doing a new thing by constituting the Lagos Town Council as the Local Education Authority but it should have all the powers of a local education authority. It is not impossible for you to whittle down its powers. I submit that it is not very reassuring.

Towards the end of the hon. Minister's speech he said that arrangements have been made under the Regulations as to the method of payment of grants in aid. I think decisions have also been reached between the Ministry and the Lagos Town Council as to what would be the share of the Lagos Town Council in the running cost of primary education in Lagos. I should have thought that such financial

arrangements should have been embodied in the law that we are now debating. It is of such fundamental importance that it is not something to be done behind this House.

In the Regulations it therein provided that the Lagos Town Council would be contributing no stated amount. But when the Local Education Authority is constituted it will be paying towards the cost of running Education in Lagos not less than thirty per cent.

Mr Speaker, I think I can claim to speak for the Lagos Town Council here that that is not the decision reached between the Ministry and the Lagos Town Council. The Lagos Town Council, which will be known as the Local Education Authority, will be contributing towards the cost of primary education not less than thirty per cent. I think a definite sum was reached and we ought to make provision in the Law so as not to leave room for difficulties in the future. That is why I submitted earlier that it would have been better if the figures reached between the Ministry and the Lagos Town Council had been embodied in the main law rather than the Department of Education going behind by a Regulation to make law above the Lagos Town Council.

In the course of my speech some time last week over primary education in Lagos I made a point that the Minister is spending huge sums of money over school buildings. One just has to read through the report on Educational Development in Lagos to appreciate the point. It is very easy to rely on statements from Consulting Architects. They condemn this and condemn that and ask you to put up buildings that are of quite unorthodox design. I make no apology for making the statement that for primary school-going children it is absolutely a waste of money to erect the type of buildings you have around now. What is the necessity of providing lounges, toilet rooms, cloakrooms, things we would expect in secondary schools or Universities provided for primary school children. After all, the main purpose of free primary education is not to turn out lawyers and doctors. The main purpose of primary education is to give basic education and that is why you make it universal and free. It may not be possible for everybody to receive post primary education: that is what it is essential for the hon. Minister of mis-

Information to appreciate, that primary education is to ensure that everybody is literate. That is the essence of it. Therefore it is sheer waste of money to set about erecting the sort of buildings we have in Lagos now that go under the name of primary education school buildings.

One cannot understand this Education Bill unless one reads it conjointly with the report of Educational Development in Lagos. There seems to be a lot of money wasted for school buildings rather than providing education for all in Lagos.

I make this point again that a lot of pupils are left out under this scheme. There is no doubt that that is admitted in the Report that has been published, and I humbly crave the indulgence of the Speaker to read page 10 of this Report wherein the Minister himself admits that particular hardship will be felt by children born in 1950 and therefore above registerable age in 1956. Why should somebody born in 1950 not be able to enter for free primary education under the scheme? Because you have short-sightedly fixed the age at five. Although in fairness to the Minister, he says something will have to be done to remedy the situation. (Interruption).

Mr Speaker: There is too much interruption going on.

Mr Dosunmu: The Minister himself agrees that a lot of pupils are left out under the scheme because he has fixed the age so low. As I told you, voluntary agencies in Lagos do not admit pupils until they are six. If you fix primary course to begin at five it only means you are ruling out a lot of children between five and six. The Minister himself has said something will have to be done about it but it is quite some time now that this scheme has been started and all these boys have still not been provided for.

After saying so much against the Minister I cannot help but say that any scheme of universal primary education anywhere in the world is not an easy thing; although in Lagos it is belated yet it has come to the people. So to that extent I must congratulate the Minister; also I congratulate him in the manner in which he and his officials have introduced it because they seem to carry the people of Lagos with them in planning the scheme. But, if I may say so, Sir, money is going to be wasted in putting up these school buildings and in paying consulting

architects this sum of money simply to design elementary schools: that is a sheer waste of money.

Mr Speaker, Sir, after saying so much I—(An hon. Member: Say nothing!)—support the second reading of the Bill.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun): I wish to contribute a bit to the Debate on this Bill.

I think, Sir, that there are some matters on which we should have absolute agreement in this country, particularly on matters touching upon the capital of this country. I think that, if the hon. Member for Lagos had started his speech in the way he ended it, probably there would be more logic in what has been said.

I think the question of school buildings and the nature of houses to be built for the coming generation is a matter which cannot be played with lightly. People in this country, particularly in Lagos here, are coming out of mud houses and they are going into modern houses and it is expected that we should go and build dilapidated walls for the children of Nigeria! I want to say this, Sir: that nobody with any sense of decency and a feeling of service to his country will support a scheme of that nature; what is more, it seems to me that it is very easy to play politics. The hon. the last speaker is a Member of Lagos Town Council and knows very well that when buildings are being put up in Lagos there are certain specifications. . . .

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): Point of order, Sir. I just want to explain that I live in a mud house and in Otaiyegbaju and Ogbo-mosho we live in mud houses and we do not die. (Laughter).

The Minister of Research and Information: Mr Speaker, Sir, I say that we want to move out of mud houses and go into modern houses. (Applause). Mud houses, built in the Western Region for so-called primary education, are all falling down now and we do not propose to waste the money of the Federation as they are wasting money in the Western Region. However, that is only by the way.

Mr Speaker, I want to make the point that, when we come to this House, we have to behave in a responsible manner; there is no point in playing to the gallery on this matter. There is nobody who can put up buildings in Lagos without having to comply with the regulations

laid down by the Lagos Town Council and, when you are going to build places where the children of Lagos are going to attend their classes, then you must know that you are dealing with the welfare and safety of the future generation of this country. The sooner people stop playing politics with this question of buildings in Lagos the better.

Another point is that the only reason why I got up to speak on this matter is that I want all Members of this House to take pride in the nature of the edifice which they are putting up for the future. Despite the heckling of the Leader of the Opposition, I still say that what is being done in Lagos is a clear example and a clear lead by the Government to the Party of which he is Deputy Leader.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to wind up by saying that this Government and the Members of this House take pride in the type of building which has been put up and future generations will bless the present Minister of Social Services for the type of building which has been put up.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**M. Nuhu Bamalli** (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to join in welcoming this Bill. I also join my hon. Friend, Mallam Maitama Sule, in appealing to the Minister to see to it that Northerners resident in Lagos are not handicapped in getting their children to State schools. That, Sir, will even be in conformity with section 53 of this Bill.

Sir, there is only one section of this Bill which makes me pause to wonder. That is section 45, where the Government does not deem to take it upon itself to look after the religious instruction in assisted voluntary agency schools. But the religious instruction is one of the most important ingredients that go to make a good citizen and an educated man. If we are lax in religious teaching, we are soon going to turn out from our schools boys and girls with bookish knowledge, but hopelessly lacking in the supreme knowledge, and that is the knowledge of God.

I therefore believe it is the duty of a good Government, like ours, not to neglect the religious upbringing of the children of the nation. Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr A. Rosiji** (Egba East): Mr Speaker, it is not surprising that this Government has, as usual, placed the cart before the horse. Now,

the free primary education has already come into operation, and to-day the law under which this school is operated, has just been presented before this House for approval.

Well, somebody said a short while ago that some scheme was rushed. If this one was not rushed, I don't know what was, but the point is that our Government, always sleep all the time, forgetting what they should do and when they should do it, and this is why I expect this law has come out so late. Now, the point here, is this, that the points already made by hon. Members in regard to the free primary education scheme, are points which are peculiar to this scheme in Lagos. We have had similar schemes in other parts of the country. The scheme in the Eastern Region, and the scheme in the Western Region, have not suffered from the same type of extravagance which the Lagos Scheme has suffered from.

A Member of the Council of Ministers has attempted to dissent from the position, but what he should remember is this, that Nigeria is not Britain; Nigeria is not the United States of America. What we are yearning for to-day is education, not luxury, and if the money which has been spent on these schools were utilised for some other purposes, they would have been of much greater benefit to this community than this expensive school at £1,100 per class room, which has been built here.

The schools are lovely to look at, there is no doubt about it, but they are a luxury which in the circumstances of Nigeria to-day we cannot afford. In the same way as the Ministers' quarters which have been built, or which are being built, contrary to public opinion in this country, are a luxury which this country cannot afford. *(Interruption)*

**Mr Speaker**: Order. Enough time is being wasted already by interruptions. We must not have it.

**Mr Rosiji**: I thank you, Sir. Now, I said before, and I think many people have said before me, that free primary education scheme is one of the best things which you can have in this country today. The time is ripe for it, and I am glad to see that we are all working towards it in the whole of the Federation. But this is the time, if I may say so, when the Government should start planning actively for the provision of post-primary schools for the school-leavers who are now being

trained in the free primary schools. If the plan is not made now—time goes fast, you know—we shall find that these children come out of school and they reach a dead end. At the moment up to a thousand or more pupils sit to the entrance examination of King's College here, and I do not think that more than forty are ever admitted at any time. That is a deplorable situation and the situation is going to be made worse if something is not done now by the introduction, which is a good thing, of this free primary education.

It is not only secondary grammar school that we want to plan for right now. We want to have more and more vocational schools for these school-leavers. We cannot all be doctors and lawyers. We are not all gifted in that direction, but those who are not gifted in that direction are gifted in other directions in which those who are gifted to be lawyers and doctors are not gifted, and therefore there must be opportunity provided for everybody, those who can use their hands should have plenty of technical schools where they can go to after having completed their primary schools.

Now, Mr Speaker, I find as is usual in this Bill provisions regulating the opening of schools and the closing of schools. They are usual provisions, but it has tended to work against the interests of the community quite often. The interpretation of the law, especially with regard to the opening of schools, is always too rigidly made. I would not say that the conditions which have been laid down here are too rigid—it is the way in which the conditions are interpreted and are operated quite often without any human touch or sympathy and without regard for the feelings of the people who are involved in these schools. I would like to ask that in operating these clauses—I think they are clauses 24, 28 and 30, in operating them the Minister should have in mind that schools are an essential thing to our community and it is better for him to err on the side of allowing schools to be opened rather than on the other side of not allowing schools to be opened.

Now, it has been mentioned sometimes during this debate that the school children who go to these schools will have the opportunity of making a free choice of religious education. This is very important, but I would like to say that religion being one of the primary things which one should expect

in the education of a child, we should not allow people to blind us to the proper proportions of the things that make for a good education. I do not intend to expand on this more than what I have said, but what I am asking for is that a proper balance be maintained in our schools with regard to religion.

Now there are a lot of things, matters of detail, which one can criticise in this Bill, but I would like to ask the hon. the Minister of Social Services if he at any time consulted the Nigerian Union of Teachers before this Bill was brought. This type of Bill is not one which we in this House, or the Minister, or his Permanent Secretary in their offices, can just draft without consultation with the people who are actually operating, and who are going to operate these schools which are going to be established by the Ordinance. My information is that the Nigerian Union of Teachers has not been consulted on this matter, and when we come to the Committee Stage I have no doubt that there will be very many proposed amendments, and there will be quite a lot of the time of this House spent in debating these amendments, things which might have been put right if the matter had been taken before the N.U.T. for their views before the law was brought to this House.

I would like to have a statement from the hon. the Minister about this point, if he has consulted the Nigerian Union of Teachers, then I will know that that Union has not done its duty as far as this Bill is concerned, and if he has not done so, then we would have to ask him to go back and consult that body before he brings this for us for further consideration.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in this Bill there is provision for the Chief Federal Adviser on Education, in Clause 4 (2), it is stated: "Pending the establishment of a Local Education Authority the functions of such Authority shall be exercised by the Chief Federal Adviser on Education."

Now, in Clause 5 the Lagos Town Council will be the Local Education Authority and in Clause 10 (2) there is sufficient weapon in the hands of the Minister to supervise whatever duties they are doing under Clause 5. That being the case, Sir, I am of the opinion that Clause 4, sub-clause 3, should be deleted and

the Chief Federal Adviser and some other members under Clause 8 should be members of the Local Education Authority.

Also, Sir, under the Schedule to Clause 8 there are a number of people there who should be on the Local Education Authority under Clause 4. What I think should have been done, is that in Clause 5 the Chief Federal Adviser on Education and some of the people in Clause 8 as provided in the Schedule, should be Members of the Local Education Authority.

Now, Sir, also in paragraph 14 (a) I am happy that there is democracy in this Bill.

In this Bill under Clause 14 (a) parents are allowed to send children to school of their own religious denomination or faith. There is one danger here I have seen, Sir, in paragraph 14, 2 (a) "no person shall be registered as a person of primary school age unless his parent is resident in Lagos at the time of registration". Because this Bill is a very good Bill and in the best in the country, I hope, Sir, that people outside the Lagos capital will not become overnight residents in Lagos, just for the purpose of getting their children registered.

Sir, one Member said that Hausas are not given the opportunity in Lagos to attend schools. Sir, I would like to remind him that even in Lagos Town Council, there is a Hausa representative. I think Sir, that if that Gentleman is wise enough to know how to get into the Lagos Town Council, he will also, with our support, be in a position to help Hausas in Lagos to attend this free Primary Education schools.

Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking about the Bill itself I have to congratulate the Minister once more for the buildings they are putting up in Lagos for the children attending these free Primary Education schools. It is most unfortunate, that the speaker was unable to attend the show of the Staff of the House of Representatives at Glover Hall last Friday, otherwise, he would be in a position to see what is going on in the Western Region.

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): That is irrelevant.

Mr Speaker: I am the judge of that. I hope Mr Benson will not go beyond the line which I am rather afraid of his doing.

Mr Benson: What I meant, Sir, is that in the schools built for these children in the

Western Region, some of them are so obsolete now that if you go there you will see mosquitoes, in shorts, snakes, frogs and lizards dancing the *Kusimilaya*. (Laughter). That was the aspect that Mr Speaker missed on Friday.

If one is allowed to use Latin in this House, there is no reason why we cannot use our own Yoruba idioms.

As for Mr Rosiji I think he is the enemy, of the children going to school in Lagos, otherwise he wouldn't come to this House and complain that the schools resumed in January and we are now just introducing the Bill for these young children going to school. He does not want them to go to school.

Sir, I must congratulate the Minister once more for his speech. This Bill, Sir, is the first of its kind, and I am not surprised because Lagos is the Federal Capital.

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Social Services (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, I shall be brief but to the point in my reply. A number of points were made by hon. Members as to conditions for teachers: a Joint Superintendent Committee is being set up to go into the salaries and conditions of teachers. (Interruption).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The Minister must be listened to in silence. He has had a good deal of criticism and you must allow him to make his speech.

The Minister of Social Services: Mr Speaker, I would not mind because the crackling of thorns beneath the pot does not disturb me. (Laughter). Authorised collections will be made, Sir, to encourage indiscriminate payment but these will be made only with the Minister's approval. It is unwise to encourage indiscriminate payment of collections by school children.

Pensions for teachers: these are being considered and, as the Parliamentary Secretary said here last week, the Financial Secretary's Office and the Ministry are working on this subject.

A Member raised the question of making it possible for Northern children to have admission into our schools in Lagos and I have to say that all children, whether their parents are rich or poor, are all admitted if their parents registered them in Lagos.

On the question of making it possible to have more school days, I will refer the Member to the report on the Development of Education in Lagos; it has been sent to all the Members and most of the Members have got copies.

Local Education Authorities: somebody said their powers would be whittled down. Sir, the purpose of Clause 4 was to ensure a gradual transfer of power from the Chief Federal Adviser to the Local Education Authorities. The Lagos Town Council will share the responsibilities with the Minister through the Education Committee appointed under Clause 8.

The question of high expenditure was raised and the answer to that is that the reason for high expenditure in school buildings is in order to comply with the Lagos Town Council Bye-Laws.

Clause 45 provides that religious instruction should be carried out by Mission Staff and by religious organisations, and Clause 45 was to prevent the Government Inspectors from inspecting on this subject, because we feel that only those who know the subject should handle it.

Primary Classes: I refer Members again to the Report on the Educational Development in Lagos, section 31, page 7. If Members read this Report, they will find sufficient provisions have been made to see that we have post primary expansion for boys who will leave primary schools, in order to make it possible for them to have admission into post primary schools.

Finally, Sir, the Nigerian Union of Teachers are represented on the Lagos Board of Education, which was consulted on two occasions.

M. Baba Danbappa (North East Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I begin, this Bill is good but it is not the best and many people have congratulated the Minister, which I think is in excess of what the Minister has done. There is a glaring omission of representation of the Lagos community in the Bill. Recently in the Finance Committee there was a memorandum from the Education Department and in that memorandum, when we approved the expenditure, we attached a string to that memorandum, that a representative committee of the people resident in Lagos will have something to say in the education of

the people of Lagos. Not only the Yorubas are in Lagos; everybody will agree with me that there are so many people and a lot of these people are foreigners and we know what they suffer. And I think with the recent memorandum that is sent to the Minister, he will take into consideration the views of the Finance Committee. This is quite recently; it is not a year old or more. What we are saying is that every community here that stays in Lagos should have a representative of his own. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: More time is being spent on interruptions than on the speech. Please listen in silence. Mallam Baba Danbappa (Further interruption).

If I could have seen who it was that made that remark, immediately on my interruption, I would have rebuked him directly. I have asked for silence.

M. Baba Danbappa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I know what I am saying. My country people are here in Lagos and somebody mentioned some of the sufferings of their own children, that they are unable to go to school. And what I am saying now is a fact. We have got a lot of people here and they are residing in Lagos. They are not given the opportunity that is due to them. If there is any representative of the Hausa community here in Lagos and if they have any trouble, they will consult that their representative and their representative will go before the Education Committee and lay their complaints. It is quite simple but people seem not to understand what I am talking. I know what I am saying and I will say it straightforward; I won't leave it. It is not only the Hausas that are staying here that are foreigners. . . .

An hon. Member: What do you mean by "foreigner"?

M. Baba Danbappa: Well, people that are not natives of Lagos are considered as foreigners here; there are Hausa people and there are *kobokobos* and there are the Ijebus. (Laughter).

Mr Speaker, I want the Minister to take into consideration what the Finance Committee has decided. I support.

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not have liked to say something in this Bill but for the fact that I would like to

correct one technical error that the Opposition have continuously made, and that relates to the matter of school buildings. One of the principal aims of education is to supply an environment that is conducive to learning and we cannot as such take our children into slums to teach them how to live in slums. The school building itself is the beginning of supplying the adequate environment. (*Hear, hear*). That is why it is necessary to build good schools to train these children so that when they go out they will know the usefulness of living in good homes. When we begin to build slums for them, we expect them to go out and still grow slums when we expect to clear slums. (*Laughter*)

Mr Speaker, I support.

M. Hassan Yola 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.*

*Original Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*House in Committee.*

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Mr Chairman, I took notice that in spite of certain terms and nomenclatures used in the main Bill there were no definitions for them in the column for these definitions like "Chief Federal Adviser on Education", "Chief Federal Land Officer"...

**The Chairman:** What the hon. Member ought to do is to criticise what is in Clause 2 and not what is not in it. He is criticising what is not in Clause 2. Chief Solaru.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, under Clause 2 we have the phrase "Education Committee" and then they go on to define it in section 8. Well, we are told that later on the Lagos Town Council will be constituted into a local education authority. But our experience in this country and outside it is that the local government bodies when they become local education authorities also have their own local education committee. Now if we have this Education Committee, will it not conflict with the word "L.E.A." which is the general run of things in other local government

bodies? Will there not be a confusion? It is alright now, there is no L.E.A. in Lagos right now under the Lagos Local Government Law; but when it happens to be are we going to bring in another amendment or are we going to define "Education Committee" differently?

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Mr Chairman, I want to invite the Minister's attention to one definition here, that is the definition of the word "school". "School includes any assembly of ten or more persons for the receipt of regular instruction in any form of education". Well, that is a little bit ambiguous and I would like the assurance of the Minister that in construing this meaning the authority will be a little liberal. Will this include a koranic school where you may have fifteen or twenty people receiving regular instruction from a Master? If it will include a koranic school, it will work a lot of hardship and also a Sunday School which will be attended regularly, and there will be an instructor there, there may be as many as thirty or fifty, does that bring the Sunday School within the ambit of this law?

**The Minister of Social Services (The hon. Aja Nwachuku):** May I refer the hon. Member, Sir, to Clause 3, which deals with Exemptions.

**Mr P. H. Okolo (Onitsha):** Mr Chairman, on the question of this Education Committee: it appears that the Lagos Town Council is the local education authority, and it appears that a committee will be formed within that authority.

**The Chairman:** I think I ought to intervene because the other hon. Member talked about the definition of the education authority. That seems to refer to Clause 8 and, if you object to that definition in this Bill, I think you should do that when we reach Clause 8.

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*Clause 3.*

**Mr Z. B. Olokesusi (Ekiti South):** Mr Chairman, I don't know whether the Minister will enlighten the House why the schools entirely maintained and controlled by the Government should be exempted from this Ordinance. Are those schools to be run on different forms in the Federal territory of Lagos, and outside the law?

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sorry but we want an answer. It is very important because we are making a law for the Primary Schools. As Mr Olokesusi has said if Government schools will not be within this law, is it not a discriminatory law? We are imposing an obligation on some people which we are not imposing on Government schools. We want an answer, Sir, what is the reason for the exemption? Let the hon. Minister answer.

*Clause 3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**Mr Z. B. Olokesusi (Ekiti South):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I am doing no more here than referring to the same sub-clause 3, that the hon. Mr Dosunmu referred to. There is not time for us to file an amendment, but I think that as soon as possible the hon. Minister should consider reviewing the sub-clause as it is of no use giving local education authorities powers and at the same time setting up another committee with equal if not greater powers against the original authority. For, you see, you would be giving power to a local education authority to do something in the way in which it thinks it should be done, and also giving another power to a single individual to do certain things which are within the jurisdiction of the local education authority.

So, Sir, I am appealing to the hon. Minister to review this sub-clause and to bring to this House as early as possible an amendment to rectify this matter.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** I think it is pertinent here to deal with this terminology—"Local Education Authority"—because in accordance with the Lagos Local Government Law you have the same terminology, and I don't know whether this will not conflict with the provisions in the Lagos Local Government Law.

Sir, I would like an explanation for this.

**The Minister of Social Services (The hon. Aja Nwachuku):** Mr Chairman, I have explained the essence of this clause before. The clause is to ensure that a gradual transfer of power from the Chief Federal Adviser should take place from the local education authority; as it would not be wise to give the local education authority *carte blanche* to do as they liked, the transfer of power should be gradual.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, there is no doubt that the Minister means well. But the fact is that by the admission of this clause, you will be interposing another authority between yourself, the Minister and the local education authority. This is the first time that we are seeing this done, and I think it is very unwise. Could you, out of your wide experience, tell us where in the world you will find a single individual interposed between the Ministry and the local education authority?

Sir, there are local Government bodies in this country who are acting as local education authorities for primary schools, not Universities or Secondary schools. What is there about this that even after a body has been constituted, the powers of this Officer will still remain and he stands there dangling his rod over the local education authority? You either give him all the power, or you don't.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** May I add one point. This particular provision is very, very important, and I think if the intention is to continue to vest the power of a Local Education Authority in the Chief Federal Adviser on Education, let that be said in the Law and be done with. If the power is vested in any other body, take this Chief Federal Adviser out of the picture completely, for the Ministry has got its own Permanent Secretary who will be conducting correspondence between the Local Education Authority and the Ministry, and still you interpose the Chief Federal Adviser.

I think they are getting too many. Just as you notice here, the Minister is confused by too many advisers round him there. And here again you want to confuse the Authority by overburdening him with too many officers. I would appeal very strongly to the Minister to take this particular portion off.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano Urban Area):** I just wish to know, Sir, through the Chair, whether this Local Education Authority is going to act in an advisory capacity.

**Several Hon. Members:** No.

**M. Maitama Sule:** If not, then why delegate certain powers of the Local Education Authority to another person?

*Question again proposed.*

*The Committee divided: Ayes, 77; Nos, 13.*

House of Representatives Debates

1395 [The Education (Lagos) Bill] 25 MARCH 1957 [Committee] 1396

AYES			
Seat No.	Name of Member	Seat No.	Name of Member
3	G. O. Ebea.	173	L. P. Ojukwu.
6	D. N. Chukwu.	175	J. L. Izah.
21	Muhammadu Ubangari.	176	A. E. Ukattah.
23	Ahmad Babandi.	178	J. M. Udochi.
26	Ibrahim, Iyan Katsina.	179	J. L. Nsima.
30	Haruna, Wakilin Daji.	180	Rev. E. S. Bens.
32	M. A. O. Olarewaju.		Financial Secretary of the Federation.
33	Usman Angulu Ahmed.		Attorney-General of the Federation.
34	Baba Danbappa.		Minister of Trade and Industry.
35	Kalia Monguno.		Minister of Communications and Aviation.
40	Jalo Waziri.		Minister of Transport.
41	Alhaji Ahmadu.		Minister of Land, Mines and Power.
45	Alhaji Adamu Danguguwa.		Minister of Research and Information.
51	Alhaji Umaru Gumel.		Minister of Labour and Welfare.
68	J. U. Udom.		Minister of Works.
69	J. A. O. Akande.		Minister of Social Services.
70	L. A. Lawal.		Minister of Internal Affairs.
73	J. O. Igwe.		Victor Mukete.
74	F. T. Odum.		D. C. Ugwu.
75	H. O. Akpan-Udo.		U. O. Ndem.
78	P. Eleke.		Chief O. Oweh.
79	S. F. Nwika.		Bukar Dipcharima.
81	B. O. Ikeh.		Usuman Sarki, Saradaunan Bida.
82	F. E. Offor.		O. Bademosi.
87	P. H. Okolo.		Usman Ibrahim.
91	H. O. Chuku.		
92	D. N. Abii.		
94	S. J. Mariere.		
110	Ahmadu Fatika.		
111	Zubairu Bamu.		
113	Mahmudu Bayero.		
115	Ladan Fari.		
121	Alhaji Garba Bayero.		
123	B. A. Obaje.		
127	Bissalla Aliyu.		
130	J. A. G. Ohiani.		
131	Maina Waziri.		
134	Makama Abdulkadiri.		
135	Bello Dandago.		
137	Muhammadu Bida.		
139	Iro Mashi.		
143	Hassan Yola.		
144	Maitama Sule.		
145	Sanni Okin.		
147	Nuhu Bamalli.		
152	Ahmadu Rufai Daura.		
153	Muhtari, Sarkin Bai.		
156	Abubakar Garba.		
164	Chief J. I. G. Onyia.		
165	A. Adeyinka.		
167	L. L. Lakunle.		
168	D. L. G. Olateju.		

Tellers for Ayes  
Mr T. O. S. Benson.  
Mallam Yakubu Wanka.

NOES	
Seat No.	Name of Member
12	R. T. Alege.
13	E. O. Oyedeji.
57	Chief N. G. Yellowe.
58	Prince R. N. Takon.
59	A. J. U. Ekong.
61	L. J. Dosunmu.
63	S. W. Ubani-Ukoma.
65	S. J. Una.
100	E. O. Fawole.
103	Oba Adetunji Aiyeola.
108	Chief E. O. Omolodun.
157	Chief S. L. Akintola.
158	A. Rosiji.

Tellers for Noes  
Chief T. T. Solaru.  
Mr J. G. Adeniran.

And it being 5.50 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Committee report progress—to sit again  
Wednesday, 27th March, 1957.

House of Representatives Debates

1397 [The Adjournment—Number of Persons Executed under the Law] 25 MARCH 1957 [Adjournment—Football Pools] 1398

Adjournment

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, it appears that my answer given this morning to Question O.276 asked by Mr R. T. Alege, may have been misunderstood. The question was about the number of death sentences passed, and executed in each Region. My answer assumed that the questioner wished to know the number of executions which took place in each Region, and this may have misled the House. Unfortunately there were no supplementary questions to allow me to clear up the misunderstanding.

There seem to be four aspects of the matter—home or tribe of the executed man; place where the offence was committed; place of trial; place of execution. As I have said, I gave figures relating to the place of execution only. What Members were mainly interested in was probably the home or tribe of the executed persons. This question was not asked; nor did the questioner wish to know the place where the offence was committed, which is not always the same place where the trial was held and sentence passed. Notice will have to be given before these two questions can be answered.

I can however, now explain that over the whole three years under consideration, thirty-one persons sentenced to death in the Western Region were executed in Lagos; eight persons sentenced in the Western Region were executed in the Eastern Region; and twelve persons sentenced in the Northern Region were executed in the Eastern Region.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, on rising to support the Motion for adjournment, I have to bring to the notice of this hon. House what I should describe as a menace on the economic life of this country. In saying this I am referring to the various foreign football pools, operating branches at present in various centres of the country. Thousands and thousands of pounds are invested in these pools weekly, which monies are sent out of this country. The country gains nothing from these investments and a few lucky ones win a few thousands.

These winnings which are few and far between, become an incentive to others who feel that they themselves can share in these winnings, and therefore the present mad rush to invest in football pools.

Although I congratulate the last winners, especially the last lucky winner who netted £75,000 yet I feel that as no portion of these invested sums remain in this country or go towards the revenue of the country, Government should immediately take steps to ban these pools and with regard to our Northern Muslim Brothers inaugurate, as in the Western Region, a Federal Sweepstake or lottery, from which investments the Western Regional Government benefits, from a percentage deducted from the whole investments.

As this madness, to stake a few shillings and gain several pounds, has now eaten into the very heart of society in this country the more so, that more and more people high and low, join to swell the rank of stakers. I think Government should seize this opportunity, if not by organising Sweepstake or lottery, by organising their own pools based on the present United Kingdom matches and Nigerian soccer as well, and distribute their coupons in Nigeria. By this means the Government will be retaining at least about twenty-five percent weekly of all the thousands that will be staked thereby benefiting the country's revenue. Besides monies won will remain within Nigeria if the pools or Sweepstake is restricted within Nigeria. I am putting it before this House that it is now imperative for the Government to step in and make some arrangement either to ban the pools, or make local arrangements.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr J. M. Johnson): I agree Sir, that this is economically a retrograde step and not to the best interests of Nigeria, the way thousands of pounds of Nigeria's money are being frittered away overseas and I assure this House that the matter is now receiving the attention of my Ministry.

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, this is rather a very delicate matter but at the same time I would like to put my views before this hon. House, if you permit me, even though the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs has assured this House that this matter is being considered by his Ministry.

One must look at this matter from two angles and I want to allay the fears of certain people if that is possible. Looking at it from a religious point of view I will be the last man to dream of supporting a lottery or anything concerning gambling because I know only

too well that it is against my religion. As far as I know some people may argue that many Muslims have taken an active part in lotteries and things of that nature in the past but, according to the religion of Islam, it is the duty of the Government to see that such things as cause people to take part in matters of this kind are discouraged.

I do agree that large sums of money will be drained from this country as long as we allow people to invest in overseas lottery. Every year the amount of money that is leaving this country for overseas is exorbitant and Nigeria is benefiting but very little. Certainly we should be jealous particularly at this time when every penny to all of us is very precious indeed. If people in Nigeria are interested in this sort of thing and Government wants to arrest the large sums of money that are going out of this country by legalising or introducing lottery into Nigeria, I will urge the Government to consult the Regional Governments, particularly the Government of Northern Region, which is very keen on this matter.

Mr Speaker, through you I ask the Minister of Internal Affairs therefore to see that the Regional Governments are consulted, and we will have no objection.

And it being 6 p.m. Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (7).

Adjourned accordingly at six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 26th March, 1957.

## QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

### Question—

**W.51. M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa** asked the Minister of Works :—

How many natives of the Northern Region are registered contractors with the Federal Public Works Department in respect of building and road construction.

### Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** 16 Northerners are registered contractors with the Federal Public Works Registration Board for building and road construction.

### Question—

**W.55. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Financial Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state why the sum of £893-2s-2d embezzled by the cashier of the Yaba Trade Centre during the years 1951-53 was not recovered.

### Answer—

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :** Although it was stated in the Director of Federal Audit's report on the accounts of the Yaba Trade Centre for the year ending 31st March, 1954, that the amount embezzled was £893-2s-2d his report for the year ending 31st March, 1955 indicated that the sum of £889-3s-11d was the correct figure. This amount has not been recovered as the cashier who was involved disappeared after he had appealed against his conviction on a charge of stealing. The whole amount has since been written off.

### Question—

**W.101. Mr L. A. Ning** asked the Minister of Works :—

In view of the important markets in Wum Division and the community roads there which stimulate trade with Eastern Nigeria, if he will consider including in the Economic Development Programme, 1955-60, the construction of a road from Obudu in Ogoja Province thence to the Ring Road at Beba-Befang and Esimbi Clans in Wum Division.

### Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** No, Sir. The funds at my disposal in the Economic Programme which expires in 1960 are already fully committed, so that it would be impossible for me to accede to this request.

**W.106. Mr L. A. Ning** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will state what is the volume of water in Menchem Falls in Wum Division; and if he will take steps for harnessing the Falls.

### Answer—

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power :** No, Sir. The volume of water in the Menchem Falls in Wum Division is not known.

Until there is evidence available that there is a potentially large demand for electricity in the area the Electricity Corporation is not justified in incurring expenditure on a further investigation of these Falls.

### Question—

**W.123. M. Mormoni Bazza** asked the Minister of Works :—

What authority is responsible for the unsatisfactory road diversion at Gulak on the Uba-Bama road.

### Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** I, as Minister of Works, am responsible for the route of the all-season road which is being constructed between Uba and Bama. Funds for the construction of this road are limited to the provision in the Economic Programme and to have routed the road *via* Gulak would have entailed an expensive and unsatisfactory alignment through swamps which would have caused the vote to be exceeded.

### Question—

**O.211. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would make a statement indicating his policy for encouraging greater and more effective participation by indigenous traders and trading concerns in the import trade.

### Answer—

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :** During the debates on the Address and on the Appropriation Bill I made comprehensive statements of the means taken by the Federal Government to encourage greater and more effective participation by Nigerian traders and trading concerns in the import trade. Both on those occasions, and during the discussion of my Ministry's estimates in committee of supply,

I quoted figures to show how Nigerian merchants are being assigned a steadily increasing proportion of specific import licences. The Department of Commerce and Industries maintains a trade advisory service which is always at their disposal, helps to put them in touch with exporters overseas, and provides them with information as to the standing of the latter, if the Nigerian merchants desire it.

The Department will also if called upon do its best to adjust any misunderstanding or difficulty arising out of commercial transactions with overseas firms. Whenever a business man from overseas wishes to establish himself in this country the Ministry of Trade and Industry is consulted, and within the framework of the Federal Government's immigration policy as a whole it sees to it that the interests of Nigerian merchants are not prejudiced by the intrusion of overseas interests. My Ministry has also contributed, in conjunction with the Financial Secretary's Office, towards securing more convenient customs arrangements in certain parts of the country.

### Question—

**O.251. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry :—

If he would make a statement on the decision of the Federal Loans Board not to support applications for loans intended for new industrial projects, but to confine its loan activities to established industrial enterprise.

### Answer—

**The Minister of Trade and Industry :** The Federal Loans Board has taken no such decision.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 26th March, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

## Question—

\*O.233. Chief E. O. Omolodun asked the Minister of Transport :—

In order to calm the anxiety of the people of Oyo Division and Ogbomosho, if he will take steps to construct a branch railway line from Ibadan thence to Oyo and Ogbomosho and joining the existing railway line at any convenient place.

## Answer—

The Minister of Transport (Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Question No. O.148 on the 12th of March, 1957.

## Question—

\*O.255. Alhaji Aminu Tafida asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he will state what action has been taken to safeguard the public against loss of life through collision with trains at the railway level crossings in the Northern Region.

## Answer—

The Minister of Transport : In my answer to Oral Question No. O.157, on the 20th of March, 1956, I announced the setting up of a Committee under the Inspector of Railways to prepare a phased programme for the protection of all level crossings on the railway.

The Committee's recommendations which have been approved by me include :—

(i) The construction of physical impediments such as islands and roundabouts on either side of level crossings to slow down traffic approaching level crossings ;

(ii) the installation of road signs on both sides of the approaches to level crossings. It is proposed to instal new road signs on the German model. These will have luminous paint in orange and white and will be visible in the dark and striking by day. These new signs will, however, have to be approved under the Road Traffic Ordinance ;

(iii) the improvement of visibility between the road and the track. All level crossings will have a clear line of vision from the roads and all new level crossings will have to comply with this requirement.

In so far as the Northern Region is concerned, surveys of almost all level crossings have been completed and estimates and plans are awaited from the Director of the Public Works Department, Kaduna. As soon as these are received and approved, steps will be taken to implement the recommendations of the Level Crossing Committee.

I should add that these protective measures will be of no avail if drivers of motor vehicles do not exercise due care when approaching level crossings. Most of the accidents at level crossings can be averted by better standard of driving and greater care on the part of pedestrians.

## Question—

\*O.256. Alhaji Aminu Tafida asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he is aware that the Nigerian Railway Corporation has withdrawn the Bus Service between Sokoto and Gusau ; and if he will use his good offices to see that this valuable service is restored.

## Answer—

The Minister of Transport : The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Written Question No. W.201 in the Hansard of the 23th of February.

## Question—

\*O.291. Alhaji Musa Hindi asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he will state whether the proposed line for the extension of the railway into Bornu Province will pass through Damagum and Damaturu.

## Answer—

The Minister of Transport : No, Sir.

## Question—

\*O.292. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Transport :—

If he will investigate the possibility of extending the railway line from Oshogbo thence to Benin through Ishan Division to Agbor and Asaba.

## Answer—

The Minister of Transport : The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. O.148 on the 12th of March, 1957. His suggestion will be referred to the Committee.

## Question—

\*O.234. Chief E. O. Omolodun asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will consider establishing a training school for motor vehicle drivers.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works (M. Usman Sarki) : Yes, Sir.

## Question—

\*O.235. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Works :—

If he proposes to lay a bituminous surface on the Aba-Umuahia-Okigwi-Oji River Trunk Road A by direct labour of the Department of Federal Public Works or by agency of the Eastern Regional Public Works Department.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works : I propose to have this work carried out by contract.

## Question—

O.236. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Works :—

What plans he has for straightening the section of Trunk Road A from Benin to Agbor where there are dangerous bends and corners ?

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works : There are no plans at present for straightening the section of Trunk Road A.6 between Benin and Agbor, although funds are being allocated to the Provincial Engineer, Benin, in his maintenance allocation for 1957-58 for the purpose of felling trees along this section of road to improve sight distance on some bends.

## Question—

O.237. M. Haruna, Wakilin Daji asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will lay a bituminous surface on Trunk Road A from Danbatta to Daura now that the necessary staff and road-building equipment are available in both Kano and Katsina Provinces ?

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works : Yes, Sir.

## Question—

O.257. Alhaji Aminu Tafida asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state when work is expected to start on the forty-four bridges on the Trunk Road A between Gusau and Sokoto ?

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works : Work is expected to start on these projects in October, providing the steel is obtainable.

## Question—

O.258. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Works :—

If, after seeing the appalling condition of the Federal roads in the Southern Cameroons during his tour of the Territory in December last year, he will consider the tarring of the sections between Kumba and Mamfe, Mamfe and Ikom, and Mamfe and Bamenda as a matter of urgency ?

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works : The answer to part of this question is yes, Sir. The provision in the Economic Programme includes the tarring of the section between Kumba and Mamfe. In addition American aid has been received for the Mamfe-Ikom section. The urgency of these works is fully appreciated by me and I have made arrangements recently which I hope will accelerate this Programme.

## Supplementary to Question O.258—

Mr L. S. Fonka : To which part of the question is the answer "Yes", Sir ?

Several Hon. Members : Answer ! Answer !

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## Adjournment Sine Die

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Sir, I beg to move, That this House, at its rising to-morrow, do adjourn sine die.

The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) : Sir, I beg to second.



Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising to-morrow, do adjourn *sine die*.

#### SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR NIGERIA

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): Mr Speaker, Sir, coming events always cast their shadow.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Before the Debate goes any further—there must be no background of interruptions because the House is very full and the least noise makes it impossible for me to hear and certainly impossible for the official reporters to hear.

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. The Motion reads as follows:—

That this House instructs the delegates specifically added to the Federal Delegation to the forthcoming Constitutional Conference to express the views of this House to do all in their power to secure the grant of self-government to the Federation of Nigeria in 1957.

I start by assuring the House that, in moving this Motion, we are animated with the best intention in the world. The Motion, as it proceeds, will show that there will be no element of recrimination whatsoever and that, in moving it as best I can, I would express what I believe to be the legitimate desire not of just one party or one section but of the whole of the Federation of Nigeria.

I would say that this Motion presupposes that the time has come to put an end to imperialism as far as it applies to this country. Colonialism and imperialism are synonymous and I need not recount that imperialism is an evil; it has a lot of the elements of evil in it and, in saying that, I would not rely just on my own word: I would cite an instance in which one of the imperialists admitted that imperialism contains a lot of the elements of evil: I quote the words of a former Governor of Nigeria. On the 29th December, 1920, Sir Hugh Clifford made this statement to the old Legislative Council:

“The first and most obvious results of the clash of the higher with the less advanced civilizations are the demoralisation which it almost inevitably causes, alike in the possessors of the one and of the other, and of this the

history of West Africa has furnished in the past—and, in a measure, furnishes even to this day—only too rank a crop of illustrative examples.

“The motives which brought about the first harsh impact between Europeans and the peoples of Nigeria were supplied by a hunger for wealth on both sides and by the traffic in human beings by means of which that hunger was assuaged for white man and for black man alike. The inevitable evils which arose therefrom call for no description or emphasis and, even when the Slave Trade had, at length, been stamped out, that miserable era was succeeded by the age of the traditional “palm oil” ruffians: broken men of almost every nationality who placed no limit upon the extravagances of their ill-doing and found in the African tribes which they exploited and corrupted hundreds who were eager to aid and to abet them.”

In other words, imperialism is a hunger and it creates a lot of predatory instincts in man, whereby man becomes a wolf to man. The objective in this case, therefore, is to put an end to this evil of imperialism or colonialism.

Now, it is not only greed that is the evil effect of imperialism. Practically all wars that have been fought in human history arose, either directly or indirectly, as a result of imperialistic tendencies in some people. If, therefore, the abolition of imperialism is brought nearer, it may bring us nearer to peace, perfect and absolute peace, among human beings. In moving this Motion, therefore, and if this Motion is accepted, to put an end to imperialism in this country, it might be a contribution which Nigeria can make towards the establishment of universal peace.

The first evil of imperialism is that it destroys man's confidence in himself. Among imperialists there are people who have lived so long as the underdog that they have lost every confidence in themselves; they believe that, if all the countries of the world are free, it will render them poor in their own country; so it destroys their own confidence in themselves and among the backward people imperialism also destroys our own faith in ourselves.

There are people who have lived so long in bondage that they have lost every trace of liberty. Those who are interested in the history of the slave trade will remember that when those gallant lovers of peace all over the

world were fighting to put an end to slavery, among their greatest opponents were slaves themselves. Slaves who had lost every confidence in themselves, who believed that they could never live again as free-born. By passing this Motion, therefore, we shall succeed in re-establishing in ourselves faith in our people and in our future.

Well, I have been able to satisfy the hon. House to some extent that imperialism is an evil, but is it an unmitigated evil? That is the question. Imperialism is an evil, but I respectfully submit that it is not an unmitigated evil. It is said that there is an element of goodness even in things evil. Bad as it is, imperialism, as far as it applies to Nigeria, has not been without some element of goodness.

Now what is the element of goodness in this part of imperialism? I must start by saying this in fairness to Britain, that Britain was not the author of imperialism. There have been several imperialist powers long before Britain. With due deference to the historians in the House, I would say that Britain has one distinctive distinction among imperialist powers. Britain succeeded in a large measure to humanise imperialism, and if ever there was anything known as benevolent imperialism, Britain was the author of it. As a result of this new faith in imperialism, Britain has been able to bring about a lot of useful changes in this country.

One outstanding contribution which will immortalise the name of Britain in this country is the creation of the country now known as Nigeria. Nigeria is a conglomeration of peoples; but Britain has, as a result of her imperial power, been able to weld together a number of people who perhaps otherwise would have remained to this day as warring tribal groups. I would therefore respectfully submit that the country known to-day as Nigeria is the creation of Britain, and I hope that it has been agreed by all sections, not only in this House but by the whole country, that that memorial to Britain, that creation, Nigeria, is a useful creation, and we must keep it intact, united and strong, not only now but for evermore. (*Hear, hear*).

Not only has Britain given us a united country in the name of Nigeria, she has also given us our own system of parliamentary democracy. I think this is a great contribution

to this country, and it will be one of the lasting memorials to Great Britain.

I need not exhaust the whole catalogue of the benefits that have accrued directly or indirectly as a result of our link with Britain. I refer to the creation of this country as a unit, I refer to the introduction of liberal education on the British pattern, the establishment of law and order, the establishment of modern communication, the furtherance of public health—all these are part of the goodness that has emerged out of British imperialism; what is more, Britain ruled over Nigeria, and it is often said by politicians and by nationalists that Britain has deprived us of our political freedom. While that may be so, Britain has also succeeded in whetting our appetite for freedom and British love of freedom has become infectious, and it is the urge pushing us on to-day, so that we may within the near future find ourselves on the same pedestal as imperialist Britain.

Well, I have given the evils in imperialism, and I have also been able to persuade you, I hope, that there is an element of goodness in imperialism, but much as Britain has done for this country in the name of imperialism, I respectfully submit that the end does not always necessarily justify the means. If Britain uses imperialism as a means of bringing benefit to this country, that result does not necessarily justify imperialism. I therefore respectfully submit that the time has come for us to put an end to imperialism.

How do we put an end to imperialism? Examples have been given in other countries, by attaining a new status, the status of an independent or self-governing country. When we attain that status, it does not mean that we sever our link with Britain. In fact Britain and Nigeria have been so indissolubly welded together that nothing ever can separate us. By putting forth this Motion we are merely trying to forge a new relationship between Nigeria and Britain which would no longer be that of a master and a servant, but which would be based on mutual trust, reciprocal goodwill, and mutual understanding. During that stage we would be masters within our own home. Britain will remain as master within her own home, but we shall still be linked together, joined together as friends and brothers, all in a common allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen at the head of the Commonwealth. (*Hear, hear*).

Now, the question which now arises is that the Motion is that we are ready for self-government in 1957. Here opinions may differ, but what are the reasons for our feelings that we are perhaps ready even in this year, 1957? The experiment in self-government has been on in this country for the past five years. Power has been transferred gradually into the hands of our people, and I respectfully submit that this experiment has proved a tremendous success. Who could have foretold ten years ago that we could have in this hon. House Ministers of the calibre that we have here to-day? What prophet could have foretold, say, six years ago that we would have a Minister who would be competent enough to answer all the questions relating to Communication and Aviation? (Laughter). It would have taken more than an ordinary prophet, six years ago, to foresee an era this year, in which we would have a Minister here not only answering questions on Commerce and Trade but also enunciating national policy, not for one village, not for one town, not for one Province even, but for 32,000,000 people in this Federal territory. Well, these changes have more than assured us that the experiment in self-government has proved a remarkable success.

And what is left now? In the Council of Ministers we have only three expatriate officers, only three, as against ten Nigerian and Cameroonian Ministers. Well that shows that the remaining responsibility to be undertaken would be the responsibility being discharged at the moment by three expatriate Ministers. Could an arrangement not be made between now and next December, for taking over the duties of only three Ministers?

I think that from all sides of this House we do appreciate the great contributions that our expatriate friends have made towards the progress of this country. I respectfully submit that from all sides of this House, we can produce, not only in December next but even tomorrow, if we so desire, people who can discharge the duties of the Financial Secretary as a Minister in this honourable House. We can do that, and we can also produce people here between now and December who can discharge the duties now being performed by our gallant, intelligent and progressive Chief Secretary. (Applause.) And, as I look round all sides of this House, I know that we have produced lawyers who are competent enough

even to take the place of our Hon. Attorney-General. I notice that all sides of this House agree with me that we are prepared for that even now. That takes us as near as possible to self-government.

Apart from taking the places of our expatriate friends in the Council of Ministers, what would self-government in 1957 imply? It would only mean the transfer of the responsibility and duties being performed by the Colonial Office now to the Commonwealth Relations Office. Mr Speaker, that is not a difficult business. It is merely a case of file removing. The Colonial Office is on one side of the street, and the Commonwealth Relations Office is on the other side. It is merely a question of getting some people to remove files from one office to another, and I am sure that that can be done within the next two months. That is why I feel that arrangements should be made this year, 1957, for self-government.

We still have about nine months ahead. Can we not finish removing files in nine months? I think we can do that. Perhaps the more difficult thing would be the question of assuming responsibility for foreign relations. We have been arguing for years about the training of personnel for the Foreign Service. That may appear a little difficult. But I do not think it is as difficult as it appears.

We do not have to send Ambassadors or Consuls to every country in the universe. We may start with a few of them and act through agents in other countries. Even on my left here, Sir, we can find enough Ambassadors to go to Asia to represent us. A good number of them are fit to go to the Arab world to represent Nigeria. They do not need additional training. There are many who speak Arabic fluently; there are many of them who have been in administration for years and can represent Nigeria efficiently anywhere in the whole world.

What about other countries? After all, one of the leading countries in the world is the United States of America. We already have an Ambassador in the making for the United States of America. I am sure that the Minister of Communications and Aviation, who always feels at home in the United States, can represent Nigeria, even now, in the United States. What other preparation do we require? And if you go to the Continent of Europe—I know there are many students of economics here, students

of diplomacy, like the hon. Mbakogu. I am quite sure that we have the men, at least, a nucleus of a Foreign Service. The only country that has presented difficulty is the Soviet Union, and I am sure there will be no doubt as to who is prepared now to represent this country in the Soviet Union (Laughter).

I think we have a bearded intellectual here who might pass for a Russian anywhere, and for convenience I am sure that we are ready. All we need to do is to add V-S-K-Y to Agwuna's name, and we will have Agwunavsky. (Laughter).

I feel as if I have satisfied the House that we are ready, in this year of grace, 1957, and I will end up by assuring the House that nothing will make for the unity of this country better than attainment of self-government. We can afford the luxury of dissent and we can make a mountain of a molehill at the moment, because we are not masters of ourselves; but immediately the responsibility passes to our hands, you will observe that the North will come nearer the East, the East will come nearer to the West, and all will come nearer to the Cameroons, and we will all admit that this country is our own. Its future is our own, and we can make or mar it, but I am quite sure that it is the desire of every section of this House to make Nigeria, and not to mar it. We are united in spite of occasional lapses which people may observe to-day. We are united, because we believe we have a common destiny. We are united because we believe in our country; we all want to create a new era, in which our children, and children's children, will live as citizens of a common country. In spite of these divisions which we have often heard about, and which newspapers and other critics magnify, I notice that the depth of unity is much greater than is generally realised. The tribes marry and inter-marry in this country, which is not a small achievement. In spite of our divisions, in spite of our dissension, we are united in one thing, we are united in the quest of political freedom, in the quest for independence. Is there anybody who does not want this country to be self-governing? There is none!

And as far as the question of Prime Minister is concerned, I notice that Nigeria is coming closer and closer together, and with the attainment of self-government in 1957 I am quite sure that Nigeria will surprise the whole world.

We will surprise the world in creating the impression that we are one, one country, indivisible, and what will make us still more united is the fact that we have a Government which is our own, a Federal Government which belongs to the whole of the people of Nigeria. I am sure that hon. Members here, from every side, will agree with me that Nigeria is to-day yearning for freedom, Nigeria is yearning for independence, and the attainment of self-government by the State of Ghana has given a new impetus to everybody in different parts of this country. Our people will not be satisfied until we establish in this country a Government of the people of Nigeria, by the people of Nigeria, and for the people of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (Applause.)

Mr Ayo Rosiji (Egba East): Mr Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure and with infinite relish that I second this Motion.

Since the life of this House started there has not been any subject which has aroused so much interest in the rank and file of all our people in this country as the Motion that is now before this hon. House. My information from the Northern Region, from the Eastern Region, from the Western Region and from the Cameroons is that the whole country is waiting to hear what verdict the representatives of the people of this country will give here to-day. I dare to be optimistic that our verdict to-day will justify the hopes which our people have in us.

If my optimism comes true, there is no doubt at all that to-day we shall be declaring the independence of Nigeria in this House. If we agree to-day that independence shall be ours this year, 1957, if we agree, then all that it means, as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has put it, is that we Nigerians shall have our own affairs in our hands to do whatever we like with. It means that the end shall come to the managing of our affairs by foreigners.

Now, Mr Speaker, what claim have we to self-government? That is an important question. What claim have we? But the question has been answered many years back, and I think it is well known to every one of us; every human being on earth has an inalienable right to freedom, and that freedom is the spirit which moves human beings into great achievements. A slave can never achieve anything great; his mentality will always be that of a slave. A free-born who knows, and is aware

of his important status in life, will always achieve great things. Is it not time, Mr Speaker, that the people of this country made their own contribution to the welfare of the world? Is it not time that the shackles which bind the people of this country be loosed, so that we can go out and make our contribution, in science, and in all knowledge of the world, which will improve the lot of all human beings?

I do not believe that any foreign rule, however benevolent, and that is what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition calls British Imperialism, I do not believe that any rule, however benevolent, is as good as the rule of the people by the people. We have been under the British for over sixty years. It is not in good taste that I should catalogue the achievements during those years, but I think it is common knowledge in this country that what the various governments of this country have achieved, the Government of the Northern Region, the Government of the Eastern Region, and the Western Region, and the Government of the Cameroons, what they have achieved within the last five years is infinitely more than what was achieved during rigid foreign rule in sixty years.

That, I have no doubt, is an indication that even if we are going to rule ourselves badly, it is better that we should rule ourselves badly than that foreigners should rule us well. I have no doubt whatever that the standard of ruling, whether a person rules himself well or bad, depends on the person who is judging. If we are ruling ourselves to-day, I have no doubt that a good many people outside this country will consider that we are ruling ourselves badly. It depends on the angle from which you are looking at it. Who is anybody outside this country to dictate to us in what manner we shall rule ourselves?

We know what is best for us, and what is best for us is not necessarily what is best for other people outside this country. That is the angle from which we should look at it. We are the best judge of the way in which we rule ourselves, and no foreigner is in a position to tell us what is best for us in this country. We are the people, we are the judge, we are the best judge.

Now, Mr Speaker, I happened to be in Britain when India achieved independence. I had a number of Indian friends who were treated alike by the British, but the very day

that India achieved independence I noticed a change immediately. What was the change? The way that the Indian nationalists were treated was infinitely better than I was treated after that date.

There is a dignity attaching to independence: we must not lose sight of that fact. The country as a whole has that dignity attached to it, and each national of that country also has attached to him that dignity, and there is no doubt that all over the world whenever Nigeria has her independence, there is no doubt that the dignity of Nigeria will be enhanced. There is no doubt that our relationship with the outside world will be on a fairer basis than it is to-day.

The other countries in the world cannot deal directly with Nigeria to-day. They have to deal with Nigeria through Britain. Why must Nigeria be looked at through the eyes of another country? That is one of the things which we are resenting. We want to assert ourselves and our influence in the outside world. We want to be able to make our own contributions to the development of the world. We are human beings like other people: we do not want to be satisfied all the time with having benefits given to us by the labour of other people who are contributing to the benefit and to the goodness of the world without we ourselves making a contribution. We want to join the committee of nations, and make our contribution to the peace and welfare of the world. That is what we are asking for.

We want to have the dignity and the duties and the responsibilities. We do not want to have just the advantages, without the disadvantages. We are prepared to shoulder all responsibilities as a free nation.

Now, the date 1957 is the date that is in our Motion, and that is the date which we are arguing now. Does everybody know that Ghana is to-day an independent country? Is anybody prepared to admit in this House that Ghana is better developed than Nigeria? I am not prepared to admit that. On the other hand, I will add that Nigeria is a bigger brother to Ghana. The size and the resources of Nigeria qualify her, other things being equal, for immediate self-government. If it were possible, I would stipulate that we have independence to-day, in this very day. Now, now.

But we have a unique opportunity at the coming Constitutional Conference to put the views of the people of this country before the powers-that-be. The opportunity is close at hand, and I think that if we miss that opportunity it will entail another Constitutional Conference, it will entail more trouble, and only God knows what will happen in the interim period. And that is why we are saying that our delegates to the Constitutional Conference should go and press for the grant of self-government to the whole Federation of Nigeria in 1957.

Now, there is no doubt that there will be pessimists who will think that if self-government is granted to Nigeria, we shall be at one another's throats.

I think this is a unique opportunity for us to debunk that type of pessimism. I have had the opportunity of travelling in all the Regions of this country and in the Cameroons, and I have seen there, with my own eyes, and not with any other person's eyes, I have seen there with my own eyes, that all the people of this country have this one yearning, the yearning for self-government of the Federation of Nigeria and I feel there too that there is a strong bond which brings us together and which no ill-will can put asunder. This is a bond, I have no doubt, that will grow from strength to strength and the very fact that we are now going to join ourselves together in one common course, the course of unity, will be another strength which will keep us together until we achieve, not only a self-governing Nigeria but a great self-governing Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

*Question proposed.*

Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name and the names of my three Colleagues. Sir, the Amendment reads as follows:—Line 1, leave out from "House" to end and add—"hereby gives the Federal Delegates from the political parties who are going to the Nigerian Constitutional Conference, to be held on the 23rd May, 1957, in London, a mandate to demand independence for Nigeria within the British Commonwealth in 1959." (Applause)

Sir, going to the merits and demerits of the substantive Motion, and the Amendment, by the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to draw inspiration from J. H. Oldham, in his

writings on "Christianity and the Race Problem:" "Nothing is to be gained from pretending that things are different from what they are. Those who have a real faith need not be afraid to look facts in the face."

The second quotation, Sir, is the portion that deals with the spirit behind this Motion and the Amendment: the desire for freedom, liberty and independence. He says: "Equality becomes a burning issue whenever human beings feel that their opportunities of growth as human beings are being restricted by their fellows and that advantages which are enjoyed by others are denied to them. The problem is created by the fact that in human society, as in nature, the claims of one form of life come into conflict with those of another, life competes with life. The question is now to reconcile these competing claims with due regard to both the inequalities which exist among men and to the fundamental equality of men as men."

Sir, for a long time there has been this conflict, we have felt that our right to independence, our right to control our own destiny, has been unduly restricted in the past. We feel now that we have come to the stage where a definite and a positive demand must be made, not begging for it, demanding it as of right.

Sir, when we look at Chief Akintola's Motion, we compare the two. You find that Chief Akintola's Motion recognises the officials, the Governor-General, Regional Governors, The Commissioner for the Cameroons, as our Federal Delegates. Now, Sir, when the Motion for representation of this House at the Constitutional Conference was moved by me in this House and accepted by this House, we made it clear that in no circumstances could the officials be considered as our accredited Federal Delegates. By virtue of their position they are part and parcel of the United Kingdom Delegation, Advisers to the Colonial Office.

In the original Motion, it says that this House "instructs the Delegates specifically added to the Federal Delegation to the forthcoming Constitutional Conference;" in other words, our accredited representatives are being specifically added to the Federal Delegation. Who then were the Federal Delegation, other than those appointed by the January Summit Conference of last year? That is one of the defects. Our accredited representatives are being considered as mere delegates specifically added to these officials. The Motion further

asks the Delegates to express the views of this House. Now, Sir, when Chief Akintola spoke, he did not tell the House what the views were, he merely said to express the views of this House; to do all in their power to secure the grant of self-Government to the Federation of Nigeria in 1957. The Motion does not ask positively for independence at any definite time, it says "self-Government now." There is a distinction between self-Government and independence. (*Hear, hear*). For more than four years Ghana was self-governing before independence. To-day, Sir, we are self-governing to an extent. Although we have in the Council of Ministers a majority composed of our own men, yet the mere fact that the Constitutional Order in Council, Sir, includes as of right, three officials, derogates from the status of that Council, as a self-governing Council. It is a minor self-government. (*Laughter*). The purpose of this Motion, Sir, is to demand positively and to fix a date, a definite date beyond which our patience will become completely exhausted.

I know, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition got into difficulty, he found that his Motion could not really fire any imagination anywhere in this country. He found he was wrestling with it and I want to congratulate him because he did not bring anything that is explosive and that suggests the way this House is likely to receive this Amendment. I look forward, Sir, to this Amendment being received by this House unanimously and passed.

There is one great achievement which this House has attained and that is this: in 1953, Sir, a Motion was brought here unilaterally and, consequently, Sir, that Motion was adjourned even compulsorily. My pleasure in moving this Amendment, Sir, is that it is the 1953 Debate that was adjourned that we are resuming now. Sir, at that time I was sitting where the Deputy Speaker now sits and the Sardauna of Sokoto sat here. Then a Motion came from that side of the House also where my friend Mr Rosiji sits, demanding a unilateral self-government in 1956. Well, that side and this side, Sir, said that there could be no imposition without adequate consultation and unanimity. We did not say—"Defeat the Motion;" we said—"the Debate should be adjourned." And to-day, Sir, we have decided to resume the adjourned Debate and we intend to bring it to a conclusion to-day. (*Cheers*).

Now, Sir, why is it necessary to ask our delegates to the London Conference to demand independence not this year but in 1959? It was my friend, Mr Rosiji, who said that there may be some pessimists who may feel that we can govern ourselves even now.

**An hon. Member:** Then support the Motion.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku:** But, Sir, we are realistic enough to appreciate that the problem of government is not like putting off your suit and putting it on again. There is certain preparatory work that must be done. (*Applause*). Sir, we must prepare for independence. If we do not want to become a laughing stock to the world, we must prepare for this independence. To-day, Sir, we have no national flag, have we?

**Several hon. Members:** No.

**Mr J. A. Wachuku:** We have no national anthem; we have no national crest; we have no national stadium. Now, Sir, we have no State House or place where we can receive or accommodate our would-be guests. The State Bank which has been approved is not yet in being. We have no national currency of our own. No national library. Nothing! These things are so obvious that it is sheer waste of time to go on enumerating them. And these things cannot be done overnight. (*Applause*) Whoever says we should have independence to-day is only looking for a situation that will result in utter chaos. He cannot be a statesman at all.

Now, Sir, the most important thing that I want to bring to this House is that the people of the Northern Region, Sir, with an area two-thirds the size of this country, with a population of seventeen million and with the resources both in manpower and in every other respect, have decided that in 1959 they will be ready for self-government and independence. (*Applause*) Of what value will self-government or independence of this country be to the people of Nigeria when seventeen million people say they will not go with you? Useless! To me, Sir, this is a very vital point. The fact that we have been patient, and our brothers in the North have decided that by that time we will all march together, is the greatest achievement this House and this country has attained for a long time. (*Applause*) I am prepared to wait till that date. If anybody does not want to wait, he can go ahead. (*Laughter*).

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** One Nigeria!

**Mr J. A. Wachuku:** Now, Sir, I am happy to hear the Leader of the Opposition say "One Nigeria." He agrees. If we take independence now and you find that more than two-thirds of Nigeria will not be there, how can there be one Nigeria? But now he has agreed to come in then, singing, firing guns and digging ground, praising the departed ones and laying foundations for future generations and at the same time, building for posterity.

Now, Sir, we have also our Five-Year Economic Programme. Between now and 1959, the Council of Ministers will be able to come forward to this House to show results in our Trunk A roads, in our telecommunications, in our Post Offices and the various plans that have been made. Yet, the moment we decide on this Motion, the tempo will be quickened. (*Prolonged Applause*) Every Minister will know that he has an assignment and cannot delay. If there is any obstacle, it must be set aside. Anything standing in the way must be brushed off because there is a task—an objective that must be attained at all cost. (*Applause*)

Now, Sir, for a long time we have been talking about Nigerianisation. To have independence to-day, with the type of Civil Service we have now, the whole thing will be abortive because, Sir, the Civil Service as it is to-day is manned by expatriates. Take the Federal Civil Service—look at your Staff List, Sir. Between now and 1959, it will have to become a burden that every aspect of the Government and the administration of the Federal territory must be reorganised and put to a standard that will be able to stand the impact of independence in 1959.

Now, Sir, even then, although the primary mandate to the delegates of this House and this Federation is to demand independence, yet, in demanding that independence, Sir, they will have to make certain amendments to the present Order in Council, in order to prepare for that date. Sir, I refer to the amendments necessary to, first of all, Section 88 of the Nigerian (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954. Particularly, Sir, Section 88 (b) and (c). Now, Sir, Section 88 says: "The Members of the Council of Ministers shall be: "The Governor-General, who shall be the President of the Council;" (b) indicates that "three

*ex-officio* Members, namely, the Chief Secretary of the Federation, the Attorney-General of the Federation and the Financial Secretary of the Federation shall also be Members." With regard to (b), Sir, I say that before 1959 at the London Conference these three officials must be removed from the Council of Ministers. (*Applause*) Their posts must be abolished and in their places, Sir, there shall be a provision made for the post of Prime Minister. There must be a Prime Minister for the Federation of Nigeria, as a symbol of our national unity.

Now, Sir, (c) says: "ten members, who shall be styled Ministers, of whom:—(i) three shall be appointed by the Governor-General by Instrument under the Public Seal from among the Representative Members of the House of Representatives elected in the Northern Region"—and then it goes on to say that you will have three from the other two Regions, the East and the West, and one from the Southern Cameroons. Now, Sir, that section must also be deleted, so that the Prime Minister and the Governor-General can appoint not less than twelve Ministers from the elected representatives of the people—not based on regional affiliation, because one of the weaknesses of this House is regional attachment and loyalty of the Federal Ministers under the present Constitution.

It will become necessary, Sir, for the Prime Minister to be the Leader of the Party with an overall majority, or in a coalition with another Party, or if it is that the best interests of the country can be served by forming a national Government by selecting from all sides of the House, a kind of war emergency cabinet and all these people must be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Then we shall know we have come to self-government preparing for independence.

It means, therefore, that Section 6 (1) (a) and (b) of the Instructions under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, L.N. 119 of 1954, will have to be amended accordingly.

Sir, I have said, if you abolish the offices of the three *ex-officio* Members of the Council of Ministers then additional Ministries will have to be created; the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice and then two additional Departments pending independence, the Department of External Affairs and a Department of Defence. A fully-fledged Department is not

what we have now. A Department where you have definite officials preparing for the date of our independence, so that, as has happened in Ghana, when we have our independence in 1959, the Prime Minister can either take over the two portfolios, or will assign somebody else to take over one of them. It is when that is done that the question of training people for external affairs will become a reality, which it is not at the moment.

Sir, this explains why we say we must have a period for preparation. I cannot see how all these can be done between now and December of this year. It is absolutely impossible. We cannot expect to become self-governing and independent to-day, and become a laughing stock to-morrow. It is better that we do not go that way. Sir, it will be better when the whole nation is geared to this one objective; when every man, woman and child will be talking of this independence on such and such a date, when it will become part and parcel of their every day life, the water they drink, the food they eat, the air that they breathe: in other words when the whole country is charged with the spirit of independence. But if anybody attempts to disrupt this new machinery created for this purpose—the purpose of our independence—he will find himself in peril.

You will find, Sir, that the harmony which has not existed for some time will then be created. You will find, Sir, that the so-called unity which is purely on top and not at the bottom will be wiped out, and the real spirit of the nation will become obvious, and the leaders of this country will come to learn that they have been appointed to serve the people, not necessarily to rule them willingly, or unwillingly.

Now, Sir, why is it necessary that these delegates representing this House should be given this mandate? The reason is this: it will be most improper for this House to be represented without something as a guide to their feet, and a light to lighten their darkness at the London Conference. Now, Sir, I have not suggested anything explosive, I have only suggested those things which everybody knows are every day in the minds of the youth of this country and the people of this country as a whole. This, as I have said before, is the only House in this country that truly represents a cross-section of the country; this House draws representatives from all Divisions. There is no Regional House that represents

this country as this House does. The East is a part of the whole, as is the West, the North and the Southern Cameroons: they are all important parts but not the whole. That is the reason why their Houses are called 'Houses of Assembly.' It is significant: the Eastern House of Assembly, the Western House of Assembly, the Northern House of Assembly, and the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly—but what do we call this House? The House of Representatives. (Applause). The Parliament of the Nation! (Interruption): Yes, we have the Mace, as one hon. Member has suggested—other Houses may have their maces, but we have the Mace! (Applause). As we have been given that recognition, it is right and proper that at the Constitutional Conference our delegates should play a role commensurate with their status and in accord with the wishes of the people of this country.

Sir, I beg to move. (Applause.)

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano Urban Area): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second. (Applause).

*Amendment proposed.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Osun West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I listened attentively to the Amendment ably moved by my Friend hon. Jaja Wachuku and seconded by our Friend Mallam Maitama Sule. The subject before the House is one of great national importance and I think the best way to give it the importance that is due to it is that it be faced with the utmost spirit of unanimity. (Loud applause). In order that Nigeria may speak with one voice on this vital matter, with the leave of the Speaker of the House, I beg to accept the Amendment. (Prolonged loud applause.)

*Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.*

*Question proposed, That those words be there added.*

**The Minister of Transport** (M. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, right from the start, I want to make clear the position of my Party, the Northern Peoples' Congress, on this most important question of self-government for the Federation of Nigeria on a given date.

I want the House to know that the Northern Peoples' Congress, as a Party, has never reached a firm decision on a definite date for

the attainment of Nigerian independence. The members of my Party in this House, therefore, are taking part in the discussion of this subject with a view to conveying to our Party the wishes of the Members of the House of Representatives and to seek for their co-operation at the next Constitutional Conference. (Applause.) Sir, once this is understood, we see no reason why we of the Congress should refuse to allow the House of Representatives the opportunity to instruct their political delegates to press for the fixing of a date for Nigerian independence in 1959. (Loud applause.)

The Northern Peoples' Congress has never been at any time opposed to the idea of self-government. (Cheers.) The only difference between us and the other Parties on this subject is the question of fixing a date. We were opposed to the idea of fixing a date for many reasons, and, Sir, I am happy that to-day I have the opportunity to explain those reasons. I do sincerely hope that I shall be able to satisfy our critics and make them see clearly our position so as to appreciate our difficulties.

Sir, in the first place, we say that by accident of history, I mean the fact that the British entered this country from the sea, the areas that we now call the Northern, the Eastern and Western Regions of Nigeria came under the British administration at different times. By virtue of their being geographically situated near the sea coast, the Western and the Eastern Regions came under the British influence much earlier than the Northern Region. For this reason, Mr Speaker, the rate of progress and development in the Western European civilisation has been uneven with the vast Northern Region dragging behind.

For the purpose of making the position more clearly understood, I will in this speech refer to the Eastern and the Western Regions together as the South. Now, in the field of Western education the South is farther ahead of the North and let us admit that whatever efforts the North may make, it will take some years before we can hope to reach parity with the South in this field. Sir, we have not been idle in exercising our energies to catch up with the South, for if we compare the progress that we in the North have made in the last 50 years of our British connection with the progress made by the South in more

than 100 years, we can be satisfied that we have not done badly. (Hear, hear). We should not forget, Sir, that the first elementary school in Northern Nigeria was opened in Kano in 1908. I think that it is to our credit that we are to-day able to speak on equal terms with the South. (Applause). I am happy to say that the North is now wide awake and I hope it will not be long before we overtake the South. (Cheers). However, Mr Speaker, time is required for this, and we hope that in the interest of us all and for the sake of Nigerian unity, the people of the South should exercise a little patience to give us time to catch up.

We still cherish the plea that the development of a Federal system of government in any country largely depends on the even progress of the units comprising the Federation. (Hear, hear). Man at times, Sir, is by nature suspicious, and it is therefore natural for the people of the North, though greater than the South in numerical strength, to fear domination. (Some hon. Members: No!) I am sorry to say, Sir, that those fears still exist and they can only be erased from our minds by the most sincere practical demonstration of goodwill and by the unselfish co-operation of the South. (Hear, hear). By this I mean that the South should have sympathy for our shortcomings and that they should not be too hasty to condemn our actions.

Sir, take the question of staff in our Public Services. The South with its many schools and colleges, is producing hundreds of academically and technically qualified people for the Public Services. The common cry now is Nigerianisation of the Public Services. It is most important in a Federation that the Federal Public Service shall be fully representative of all the units which make up the Federation. Now, what do we find in Nigeria to-day? There are 46,000 men and women in the Federal Public Service. I have not been able to obtain the figures of the number of Northerners in the Service but I very much doubt if they even amount to 1 per cent.

This is, Sir, an intolerable situation and unless some solution is found it will continue to be a cause of dissatisfaction and friction. In the Regional Services we in the North are sincerely grateful to all Southern officers who have served in the North (Applause) and we gladly recognise their services; but I must also

say that our Northernisation policy is not an ingratitude, it is a policy now being actively pursued by all the other Regional Governments in the building of their Regional Services.

Mr Speaker, people often forget that the people of Southern Nigeria came to be associated with the British pattern of legislative assembly about 1922: but we from the North have only come to be associated with such a body in 1947 and a quarter of a century is a very long start in political affairs. I consider it a great achievement that in only ten years in the Legislature the representatives of the North have learnt to hold their own (*Applause*) and to-day, on account of our modest contributions to our country's progress, we are in a position to discuss in our own right this most important subject of Nigerian independence. Surely, Sir, all reasonable people will agree that the Northerners have done very well (*Applause*).

It is now about ninety-five years ago since the British administration of Nigeria started. No one will doubt that Nigeria has benefitted immensely in its association with Britain and whatever people may say against colonialism and the so-called imperialism the British people have demonstrated in practical terms that among all colonial powers they are the best administrators (*Prolonged applause*). By their grant of independence to the peoples of non-European stock the British have fully demonstrated their sincerity and honesty in the pursuance of their colonial policy. India, Pakistan, Ceylon, and quite recently Ghana, are now all independent. British colonial policy is to grant self-government to all their colonial territories as soon as the people become ripe for it.

It is a pity, Mr Speaker, that in making that policy the British Government did not lay down set standards which a colonial territory must attain before the grant of self-government. In my view it is the lack of such standards which causes misunderstanding and unnecessary criticism.

One former British teacher of mine summed up very clearly what I am trying to explain in his introduction to a history book which he wrote. He used the following words: "We do not expect an infant to show gratitude to a surgeon for saving its life. We hope however that when the infant grows to years of discretion through the surgeon draws its fee to make a living it is his experience

and advice which had put the patient on his legs again, and until the cure is permanent it is as well to have the doctor close at hand". Sir, the child has now come of age (*Prolonged applause*), and would like to thank the surgeon and ask to be discharged.

In discussing the question of Nigerian self-government one must speak about unity in the country. National unity in a country like Nigeria where the means of easy communication have only been opened in the last fifty years is a thing which cannot be achieved overnight. Both time and patience are required, particularly if one remembers the diverse tribal communities which make up the country. Many parts of Nigeria did not even know of the existence of the other parts as recently as the beginning of this century. The obvious factor which will bring about unity amongst all Nigerian peoples is the economic factor, but time is required to work this out. I have travelled extensively throughout the Federation in the last five years and I must say that I have discovered everywhere that all our communities are happily living together with one another in peace and that in those places where discord is arising it is the politicians and our newspapers who preach disunity for their own ends and thereby foster bitterness. (*Applause*). For many years before 1945 Nigerian tribes were living happily together in peace because at that time, Mr Speaker, political parties were not organised.

This brings me to say that as far as the natives are concerned there is no disunity if politicians and newspapers will not go about preaching it. The political parties and newspapers in Nigeria must solely be held responsible if we in this country fail to achieve our national unity. This question of unity in Nigeria is often confused. It may sometimes be difficult to understand what some people really mean by the word 'unity'. I hope that we are now all agreed that a Federal form of Government is the best for Nigeria and that any attempt to impose a centralised unitary system will just split the country (*Applause*). Our diversity must be recognised at the same time as we recognise the importance of keeping our country together if we are not to disappoint the entire African race which looks to us for leadership.

We are the biggest single African state in the world and we should regard it as a duty to bring prestige and recognition to the African wherever he may be in the world: that we can do this I

am certain, provided we are careful and become realists in dealing with the situation in our country.

I think I can rightly claim to have had some experience in this House and, during my ten years of unbroken legislative duties (*Applause*) I have come across many people from the South who are most honest and sincere in their wish for Nigerian unity and I have no doubt that there are thousands of others whom I have not yet met. Sir, let us not play with the destiny of our country. We who are privileged to be Members of the legislature owe it as a duty to our people to bring this country together. Those of us who have travelled through other parts of the world know how important it is for Nigeria to remain one. We can exert great influence in world affairs if we are one—none if we are not. (*Loud applause*).

Finally, Mr Speaker, I must again ask for caution and patience. Time is needed to bring about mutual understanding, with honest and sincere determination on the part of every one of us, I see no reason why we should not be ready to assume full responsibility for our affairs within the next few years. Let us all have the determination to work hard, not for our selfish interests but for the good of the whole country; let us all go out to campaign for better understanding among our different tribal groups. I appeal also to the Press in Nigeria to assist in this campaign.

Our position as an under-developed country is a most difficult one, especially in the world of to-day, and we must do all in our power to protect our country from the civil discord and strife into which some other countries—and here, Mr Speaker, I am thinking of Indonesia—have fallen within a few years of achieving their independence.

Mr Speaker, I am supporting the Amended Motion. (*Applause*). Indeed, Sir, the success of our efforts will depend on our sincerity and honesty. (*Loud applause*).

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**Mallam Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise with the greatest pride and pleasure to support this Amendment, with a profound feeling of support and confidence from all sides of this House.

No doubt, Sir, this is an Amendment which should commend itself to all lovers of Nigeria, people whose aim is to see Nigeria united and unshaken. It should also commend itself to this hon. House, in particular, for it is barely four weeks ago since the Governor-General made his fatherly appeal for greater understanding and co-operation, and it is here, Sir, that we can show our readiness to accept this advice, which is commendable to all of us.

It is in this hon. House, and on a Motion of this kind, that we can demonstrate our sense of responsibility, our mutual understanding and co-operation, and our desire for a compromise, and above all, our realisation of one Nigeria, one nation.

\* To-day, Sir, people throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria are listening with keen interest, with anxiety and in fact not without fear, to hear the decisions that we will reach on this most important issue: With the co-operation that the various political leaders of this country have been exercising quite recently, the populace of Nigeria are optimistic about the decision that we will reach to-day. They are optimistic, Sir, because they know that the state of Nigerian unity has already begun to germinate, and we in this hon. House, having always been the advocates of this unity, will not only water the seed, but also clear the useless weeds that may stop its growth. In the circumstances, therefore, I have no doubt that hon. Members in this Legislature will show wisdom in their counsel, and the true voice of the people will therefore prevail.

I must remind hon. Members, however, that we in this hon. House are the watch-dogs of the Electorate. On their behalf, Sir, we can make and unmake; we can prove and disprove; we can amend and reject, and on their behalf we can pass a law to change the Constitution of the country into any possible kind of Constitution. On their behalf, also, Sir, we can accept self-government now; we can accept it to-morrow; we can accept it next year; we can accept it at any time we shall think fit. With this heavy responsibility on our shoulders, and with the eyes of the people who have entrusted us with such responsibility, eagerly kept on us, we must realise our own responsibility, and we must not fail them by any means. We must, therefore, all agree to accept nothing that would be

detrimental to the progress of the people economically, politically, socially and otherwise. And, by the grace of God, Sir, we shall discharge our duties to the populace of Nigeria efficiently, and collectively, and may God give us the wisdom to think wisely, the courage to speak courageously, and the sense to speak sensibly, so that we may achieve our objectives.

Now, Sir, the question of self-government for Nigeria, in so far as its practicability is concerned, is already a foregone conclusion. Already, Sir, all the Regions are enjoying a very large degree of self-government, and one can say that very little power, if any at all, is in the hands of foreigners. Self-government, after all, is nothing but the passing of power from foreign hands to the hands of the indigenous natives of the country. It is most amazing, Mr Speaker, if anybody is honest and sincere to himself, to see the very rapid progress that has been made within such a considerably short period of time. Secondly, Sir, what so many countries failed to do, and others did with bloodshed, Nigeria, this land of our birth, did it so well and peacefully, and in a constitutional manner, that we can confidently say now, that we are enjoying a large degree of responsible government.

In this connection, Sir, I must be grateful not only to the British Government and the British people, but also to ourselves for fighting an issue of such constitutional importance, so peacefully. A few years ago, nobody dreamed, Sir, that we would be in the same position, and with the same status as we are to-day. It is only quite recently, Sir, and not without much consideration, that the North, which previously refused to make any categorical statement about self-government, fixed a date for it. The North, Sir, fixed that date so that it might not continue to be a deterrent factor in the way of self-government for Nigeria. Rightly, Sir, the East, which had at first decided to accept self-government as soon as possible (and in fact the slogan at that time was "Self-government for Nigeria now") became a bit considerate with us, and they came down, just as we had come down, half way to meet our and their demands. This they did in order that they might honour their pledge and so that they might be sincere in their declared policy of one Nigeria.

We made sacrifices, and the East also did make sacrifices. The West, Sir, also did it,

and to-day Western Nigeria is quite prepared to see eye to eye with any part of this Federation, for the unity of Nigeria. (Applause).

But Mr Speaker, self-government or independence is a subject that must be discussed carefully, and tactfully. Any attempt, Sir, by any part of the country, to impose its will, or dictate to other parts, will be detrimental to a united Nigeria. In this wise, therefore there must be developed a spirit of tolerance and compromise when the subject is being debated. I wish, Sir, to say that had we been a little more considerate and more tolerant with one another, Nigeria would have been self-governing a long time ago.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to record the incident of 1953 when a similar Motion was debated in the dissolved House of Representatives, and when, as a result of that Motion an incident which I do not wish to recall happened. Hon. Members, Sir, might not have been aware that it is the aftermath of this incident that made us wider apart. But for the sense of forgiveness which is prevalent among all of us, Nigeria would have been in pieces, and not united to-day. Thank Goodness that we have developed that spirit of compromise, and that spirit of forgiveness. No honest person, Sir, would like to see the country divided.

So much, Sir, for that self-government Motion.

By no means, Sir, are we trying to stop or even delay self-government for Nigeria. Self-government, after all is bound to come whether we like it or not. The scramble for power in the Dark Continent of Africa by different European nations took place simultaneously, and, to-day, the scramble for independence in the same Continent of Africa is taking place simultaneously. So that whether we like it or not we must move with, or else be moved by, the tide.

Mr Speaker, we in Northern Nigeria feel that we cannot deceive the eighteen million inhabitants of the North and accept on their behalf anything which they may later regret. We believe that for any country to enjoy freedom, and in the real sense of it, it must be free from fear, free from poverty, and free from ignorance. Certainly, it takes some time to get prepared for all these things, and they are, Sir, by arrangements of nature, things that cannot happen overnight. They are

things which can only be brought about by gradual development.

As things stand to-day, the East and West have gone far ahead of us in-so-far as the achievement of these objectives is concerned and, while we do not grudge any one Region for that matter to accept self-government at any time most convenient to it, we on our part have made up our minds to accept self-government in 1959, when we think we will be equipped to shoulder all the responsibilities which self-government will bring with it. Mr Speaker, I am glad to say that some people have seen with us and have appreciated our problems and difficulties. It follows, therefore, that while other Regions are ready we are still a bit behind from our own goal.

Now, all along we have been concentrating much of our attention on the Regions, trying to complete in order to get them up to the standard so that all the Regions may march shoulder to shoulder with one another. The Federal Government, on the other hand, which is the interweaving link, has received, as far as this is concerned, very little attention. Therefore, while some Regions may attain self-government this year, or next year, the Federation must prepare a bit more for it. As has been suggested, we must get certain things in order before we are able to be quite on our own. From all sides of this House, Sir, there has always come the complaint that in order not to make a mockery of self-government, or independence, Nigeria must have its Civil Service, at least a prominent post in the Civil Service, manned by a Nigerian. We must have an efficient Foreign Service, properly manned by Nigerians. We must have a Council of Ministers constituted in such a way that there will be no white faces there. There must be, amongst other things, Sir, which may be considered as minor, the Nigerian National Anthem, and the National Flag.

All these, Sir, have to have time to develop properly. By 1959, Mr Speaker, all the different Regions in Nigeria will have got their self-government and during this period of time arrangements can be made for a fully independent Nigeria as soon as all the Regions are on their own.

It must be recalled, Sir, that anything done in a rush and without careful preparation is bound to break into pieces. Let us, therefore,

save Nigeria from breaking into pieces. Furthermore, Sir, certain issues are still at stake, and have not yet been resolved. These are also major issues.

There is still the question of breaking the country into states, which is a controversial matter; the question of boundary, about which some political parties have been making a fuss has not been finally settled. The Lagos and Colony State Movement is still pressing for a separate colony. The Nigerian Currency is not yet in the making, much less can it be said to be on its feet. The Federal Prime Minister, to which all parties have agreed, would mean reshuffling of the Cabinet. And all these things are things to which we must turn our attention for the next two years.

Sir, unless we are able to solve these problems, and unless we have actually been able to solve them, we shall be merely deceiving ourselves if we accept independence for the whole Federation of Nigeria. Over and above all these things, Sir, there are still certain intricacies and technicalities which must be dealt with. The system of revenue allocation, for instance, will have to be revised, and this is a most important issue.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must make it clear that with all these problems before us, and with all the intricacies of constitutional technicalities, Nigeria has got the men capable of shouldering all the responsibilities that self-government will bring with it. In any field, Sir, Nigeria will not be found wanting, but to build a house is one thing, and to furnish it ready for human abode is another. At this stage Nigeria has been able to build the house. We only need to furnish it, and we need to have the time and ample opportunity to furnish the house.

Finally, Sir, I wish to make this appeal to all political leaders of Nigeria and the Cameroons, that Nigeria and the Cameroons have come to stay under these political leaders and, therefore, Sir, each one of them should not, and cannot, in fact, do without the other. Let us, therefore, sink our differences, and shape the destiny of a Nigeria in which we may enjoy life more abundant. Let us make it clear, therefore, that if anything goes wrong with Nigeria, all of us will be held responsible.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Hon. Victor Mukete, Federal Minister :  
Mr Speaker, I rise to correct the impression

that has been created by some of the hon. Members who have spoken in this Debate, that the Southern Cameroons will form part and parcel of an independent Nigeria. (*Applause*). I wish to correct that impression, and I am very sorry, Sir, that this will not be very pleasing to hon. Members, but I have to say what I have in mind. Hon. Members should by now have been convinced of the very strong desire of the people of the Cameroons for the reunification of the British and French Cameroons. . . . (*Interruption*).

**Mr Speaker:** Let us listen in silence. There is a terrible lot to be said to-day, and let us hear it.

**Hon. Victor Mukete:** The people of the Southern Cameroons, Sir, would very much like to see the Federation of Nigeria attain independence as proposed by the amended Motion, for they know that the attainment of independence by the Federation will mean, or will hasten the attainment, of independence by the British Cameroons which in turn will lead to the reunification of the Cameroons.

I need say no more here, Sir, about the future of the Cameroons, for that matter is one for the people of the Cameroons, Her Majesty's Government, and the United Nations to decide. What I would like to do here, Sir, is to disabuse the minds of hon. Members of the fears and suspicions some of them often entertain whenever the aspirations of the people of the Cameroons with regard to the future of that country are expressed. We, the people of the Cameroons, bear no ill-will towards Nigeria as a whole, or towards any part of it. We value the friendship we have formed since the attachment of the British Cameroons to Nigeria as a mandated territory under the League of Nations Mandate and, afterwards, as a Trust Territory of the United Nations.

But we are faced with a peculiar problem, Sir, a real problem which, I think, it is very difficult for even our most sympathetic friends to appreciate. We feel we must salvage the French Cameroons from the French Union. That is a sacred duty to which Cameroons Nationalists are dedicated, and until reunification is achieved the question of political relations of the British Cameroons with other West African Territories is only of academic interest.

**Mr Speaker,** much has been said about the future emergence of a West African Federa-

tion. Perhaps it is safer, at this stage, to talk of a Confederation of West African States. With this idea at the back of our minds, nobody need fear that the reunification of the Cameroons will mean the loss of the Cameroons. On the contrary, Sir, it may well mean the winning of a more prosperous Cameroons, a Cameroons with a population of over 5 million people and with an area about three-quarters the size of Nigeria.

I say this with caution, Sir, as I do not wish to commit the people of the Cameroons on this issue. But I am emphatic, Sir, that with the display of statesmanship on the part of Nigerian leaders, there can be no doubt that a unified and independent Cameroons will, naturally, come closer to Nigeria. I am perhaps asking too much of Nigerian leaders but there is no doubt in my mind that, with statesmanship, we stand a chance of getting a bigger Cameroons closer to Nigeria.

In conclusion, Sir, I wish to pay the highest tribute to the British Government for the magnificent way it has so far carried out its obligations in the political field under the International Trusteeship Agreement. The progress which the Southern Cameroons has made of late is something which is really wonderful. I have no doubt that the British Government will continue to discharge its responsibilities in this manner, until independence is attained. But independence can have meaning only if there is economic progress. That is why it is important for all who are concerned with the future of the Cameroons, Sir, to address themselves in earnest to the economic aspects of that Territory.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai):** Mr Speaker after having seen displayed on the Floor of this House this morning so much generosity on the part of no less a person than the Leader of the Opposition, and after having listened to a most inspiring speech by a Member of the Council of Ministers, a good citizen of Nigeria of whom all of us are proud, the Minister of Transport (*Applause*), my heart is full to overflowing and out of the abundance of my heart I hope to give you a little.

Now, Sir, in respect of this Amendment that independence of this country should be in 1959, I wish to tell the House some of the problems on the way of independence at the moment. In this country, we are committed

to having a Federal Constitution; there can be no going back on that issue. Sir, in any orthodox Federal Constitution, one often finds that it is a quest on the part of two or more states seeking strength through the medium of union. Our own Constitution, our Federal Constitution, is quite unorthodox. It is not the union of various States seeking to get strength by union; we are in a process of reversing the process of orthodox federalism. We are engaged in the business of dividing up a country already united, into parts, in order that we might have the pleasure, or shall I say the displeasure, of uniting them in a Federal Constitution. That is not a small business.

Sir, if we must divide this country up into States and then federate them, we must see to it that the aspirations of all the sections of the country are taken into consideration in such a division. We are engaged in a division and in a division we must consider the whims and caprices, the aspirations of our people, and in this particular regard I say, Sir, Mr Speaker, that it is my duty and privilege to tell this august assembly that the people of Benin and Delta Provinces of the Western Region are decided that so far we have agreed to dividing the country and have states, they want to form an autonomous unit within the Federation of Nigeria. This is one of the problems that must be solved before independence.

I know that there are some people in Nigeria who preach the economic heresy that the Mid-West State is not viable. What after all is viability I ask? Sir, it shows ignorance of the economy of this country for anybody to say that the Mid-West State will not be viable. What makes Nigeria viable I ask? Sir, those who are familiar with the economics of states, know that Nigeria is one of the primary producing countries of the world; it is viable because of its agricultural production, and if one considers the products of Nigeria, one thinks of the palm produce, the cocoa, the rubber and the timber of the South, and one thinks of the groundnuts and cotton of the North. If you look very closely can anybody who knows the geography of this country say that the Mid-West State is deficient in any of these things? I say "No". The Mid-West produces its own quota of palm produce; produces its own quota of cocoa and, if I may say so, leads all others in the production of rubber and timber.

So that for anybody to stand on the Floor of this House, as was done some few weeks ago, and say that the Mid-West State will not be viable, is an economic error. Sir, if it is agreed I am happy, because that is one of the problems which must be solved before independence is granted to this country. Everybody wants this country to be independent, but in doing so we must tidy up all the odd ends and corners of our State. We must see that all that is necessary in order to get a stable Government is achieved, and what is necessary to achieve a stable Government is that we must concede that the country will work better if smaller States are created. If the bugbear of any State trying to secede because it thinks it is self-sufficient, can be taken out, and the only way we can take that out is by splitting the country into smaller units.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power (Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu):** Mr Speaker, Sir, the grant of independence to colonial territories whenever they are ready for it, has been the declared policy of the British Government. We know that this policy is true and also a serious one, because already we have witnessed its implementation in countries like India, Pakistan and, quite recently, in our sister territory of Ghana. The events in those countries which culminated in their independence, have not only affirmed our hopes but have given us much food for thought.

Mr Speaker, it is a natural thing for a nation when it approaches political maturity to ask for and be given political emancipation. . . . (*Hear, hear*). . . . This natural analogy is quite true in the human family. The child that the parents have brought forth and nurtured, finally becomes adolescent and then the time comes for him to start life on his own. Sir, no date can be fixed for this event, but when the time comes and the child is ready, as indeed all normal children must be, then there is one duty left for the parents, namely, to liberate the child with their blessing and do all they can to enable him to make success of his fuller life. . . . (*Hear, hear*). . . .

As with a dependent child, so too with a dependent territory and its people. Sir, this natural question of independence or liberation, or whatever people like to call it, is not a matter to be, or can be, set to a time-table. Whenever the stage is reached, it must take place;



but not before that stage is reached. Some political parties may say that in their own view Nigeria is overdue for self-government or independence. Surely, they are entitled to their own views. Some say that it should be right now, but some more conservative people who take everything into consideration, and of whom I am one, prefer the slow but steady progress to this undisputed goal. (*Hear, hear*). . . . When we arrive at the last milestone, when we think we have covered the whole distance of experience and necessary guidance and when we feel sure that independence if demanded and given we shall be able to make the best use of it for the benefit of the country as a whole, then we shall not hesitate to lay claim to it; we are sure it will never be denied to us.

Mr Speaker, the amendment which I stand to support is a sort of compromise. . . . (*Hear, hear*). . . . The matter of self-government is a delicate issue. It is a very vital matter affecting, as it does, very closely the lives of the people we represent. It is a matter for deep reflection, sober consideration and unhasty discussion. Many decisions taken in haste, many discussions concluded in a hurry, only come to be regretted at leisure. We must step boldly and deliberately. We should not cause our feet to falter or our thoughts to waver because of our own inordinate haste.

Mr Speaker, as my Colleague, the Minister of Transport, has just said, my Party has never set a definite date for the self-government or independence for Nigeria but it has, however, committed itself to Regional self-government for Northern Nigeria in the year 1959. And, in my personal view, it will therefore not be entirely out of place to contemplate independence for Nigeria in that year. . . . (*Applause*). What the amendment seeks is that this House, as the Mover of the amendment has rightly said, desires to give a mandate to those who are politicians among the Federal Delegates to demand independence for Nigeria at the forthcoming Constitutional Conference. What I would like to say on this point is that it is up to these able delegates to carry with them the wishes of the Members of this House, which is the highest Legislature in the land, and to reconcile this view, which will also be their own view, with the views of other delegates attending the Conference. . . . (*Hear, hear*). It is hoped that after this next one, there will be

no further Conferences abroad in connection with the Nigerian Constitution. . . . (*Prolonged applause*). . . .

Mr Speaker, that self-government will come is a certainty. It is a natural outcome of tutelage that maturity will come one day. The only matter for the representatives of the country to decide is whether the date to be fixed for it is the right one, having regard to all the circumstances. Speaking for myself, Sir, I think the date 1959 will be a reasonable compromise. . . . (*Hear, hear*). . . . It is about two years hence and it gives a margin of time for the necessary reflection and necessary preparation to take place. We cannot take such a step without this thinking and preparation.

Mr Speaker, when we speak of independence, we must realise that it means a lot to the nation. The achievement or even the prospects of independence should not lull us into a state of complacency. Great responsibility comes to rest upon our shoulders because it is then that we claim to have our rightful place among the free nations of the world and we shall be left to our own devices. There is no reason to suggest our inability to measure up to the task. We must, however, make allowances for the fact that as human beings no one of us is perfect. We must make mistakes, but when we make these mistakes we must learn from them and not keep on copying them and repeating them.

Several problems will confront us and several difficulties will beset us. We must face them with realism and solve them with determination. As Sir John Macpherson, our former Governor-General once said in this House, we are lucky that Nigeria is one of the very few countries to-day in the world that can solve its problems within its own boundaries. . . . (*Hear, hear*). Let us hope that no problems will arise and should any problem arise, that we shall always be able to solve such problems together in an amicable spirit. . . . (*Cheers*). . . .

Sir, Nigeria, as we know the country to-day, has been brought into existence by hard work and selfless service of the British people. It is the product of such toil and sweat that is being handed to us. It is our duty to preserve it, Gentlemen, and not to destroy it. It is useful in this connection to refer to a statement made in this House sometime ago by my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode, that there is unity among the people and various tribes of Nigeria, but that the menace of our time is the political disunity that is rapidly gaining ground in the country.

This is a fact, but its appreciation is at the same time a challenge to all of us not to allow our politics to jeopardise the well-established unity and friendly relations throughout the country. . . . (*Hear, hear*). . . . To preserve this unity, Mr Speaker, we must learn to curb the irresponsible statements made by political parties against each other because these are the things that foment hatred and create bitterness.

I know some people will say that these abuses and irresponsibilities are not peculiar to Nigeria, but to them I will say that there is no reason why people in Nigeria should not be quoted as good or better examples. To come nearer home; look at what political bitterness caused in Ghana. On the very eve of their independence, this political bitterness became a source of anxiety to their leaders and supplied fuel for scornful critics. Fortunately, these differences were smoothed out in the nick of time. If there is any lesson to be learnt from this experience, Gentlemen, then we should do better.

Mr Speaker, by asking for independence we are also seeking to be reckoned with other nations of the world and to be recognised by them. The whole world will in turn expect us to live up to their expectations. Irresponsible statements made for political reasons may be misconstrued to mean political instability. A young growing country like Nigeria needs all the goodwill it can get. We must also remember that some of our civil and political institutions are the measure of light that our country sheds abroad and at home. They reflect the dignity of the country in our own eyes and others judge them by our own reverence for them. When for political reasons we begin unnecessary and frivolous attacks on these institutions we at once drag them in the mud before our own public, and to those abroad already critical of the country's political advancement, they are taken to be signs of immaturity and political irresponsibility.

Mr Speaker, we cannot mention the question of independence without sparing some thought for the services rendered to Nigeria by the British people. . . . (*Applause*). I remember those days when there was no such country as Nigeria. The present Nigeria that is marching confidently to independence is a fitting tribute to the hard work and devotion of those who have laboured to bring the country together politically, economically and socially. We, to-day, are the inheritors of their good work.

Speaking for myself, and I believe for many more millions of Nigerians, I make bold to say that we shall never be ungrateful to the British. . . . (*Hear, hear*). . . . We can confidently look forward to the days of the new relationships that lie ahead when the erstwhile child shall become a man and walking by the side of his forebears, each shall be the support of the other, each the friend of the other, drawing inspiration from mutual confidences and parity of esteem, and setting a noble example to other struggling people to whom freedom is also near.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the amendment. (*Prolonged applause*).

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, on such an occasion as this it is imperative to pause awhile and look back, even though our job is to look forward. We must look back because we have not got to this stage merely by our own efforts, and I am very pleased that those who have spoken before me, especially the hon. Minister of Land, Mines and Power, have already ably disposed of our duty to those who have helped us to this stage. Simply because we want independence and freedom should not deprive us of that opportunity to exercise what is innate in us, the African sense of gratitude to those who have helped us.

Sir, in that number we include Government officers, missionaries, businessmen, and all who have in any measure helped us to realise ourselves and helped to fire us with ambition to stand on our own feet, and to them I would say this, especially in these days when there is so much uncertainty of what is to become the fate of those who have so far made this place their second home: I would say this, that they must not think that this independence and freedom coming for us, is merely for ourselves—as a matter of fact the fight for Nigerian independence is also a fight for their own liberation.

I will illustrate what I mean, Sir. A good many of them, in fact nearly all of them, will view the coming of our freedom with relief, for despite themselves the starchiness of office, the hardness of the official circle, has sort of frozen, or encircled their genial souls, making it impossible for them to express themselves as they would; for despite this I know that a good many of them who come here have the milk of human kindness which they would very gladly share with us, if they were not hampered by officialdom. To them it will

There is no doubt that what we unanimously ask will be given to us without any struggle. The people are ready; it is only left for us to make use of this opportunity.

A free Nigeria will be required to exercise greater economy in the expenditure of public funds, and I warn this House that pride and vain gloriousness will work out our downfall. Greater cohesion, with foresight, national planning and development, will assist us to come to that promised land which we spoke of.

There are some people who believe that there can be no honesty in politics. This is an unfortunate train of thought that must be scrapped in a free Nigeria, when Nigeria will have attained full nationhood. Spiritual values and moral qualities will produce stable governments. In order to inspire the confidence of the outside world anything short of this will make us regret. We look for one Nigeria: one that is in all respects a leader. One leader, one Prime Minister, one Ambassador. (Laughter). It is no use having a multitude of Ambassadors; but that does not constitute any problem.

I personally deplore that new doctrine of trinity in Nigerian political set-up. We must be one, one in everything, otherwise there will be much division in the camp.

As I am going back to my constituency tomorrow, I will be able to tell them that this country is on the threshold of independence, and that many people in this country are looking for what is past, setting example to the Regional Legislatures, so that if we all agree as we have all agreed to-day, that we shall have our independence when the London Conference begins, I have no doubt whatever that God shall be with us and with our people.

The last thing I want to say is that we should seek first the unity of Nigeria and her welfare, and all her possible interests. But if you begin to seek self first, I am sure that we shall fail. It is not the prayer of mine, or my Party, that we should fail. We should all work together and see to it that we succeed. There are many people in this country who thought that they would not live to see this country united under one Government, as people who have realised their greatest ambitions, to restore the unity of this country, that they might one day wake up and find that all their ambitions have failed. I commend the spirit which has guided this House to-day to continue.

Mr Speaker, I support. (Applause.)

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): I rise to support the Amendment. In doing so, I wish hon. Members of the House to appreciate the full significance of this Amendment. Independence for the country we love is a grave and serious issue, which has taxed all our strength and energy in the past and which we will go on striving for until it has been finally achieved.

I think it is only fitting on this important occasion to mention some of the names which figured prominently in the vanguard of our struggle for freedom. I am sure Members of the House will wish to recall the services of such men as Herbert Macaulay, Dr Vaughan, Dr Adeniyi Jones, Egerton Shyngle, Jibril Martins and Eric O. Moore. They, along with people like Ernest Ikoli, Sir Francis Ibiyam and many others, too numerous to mention here, made contribution for creating the circumstances which have paved the way for the progress made in our constitutional struggle. With the mention of these old and respected names, we can recall the milestones which have been passed along the road to Nigerian independence. The acquisition of political power is the ambition of any country. Deny this to any country, Mr Speaker, and you invite human misery expressed in perpetual struggle, often culminating in bloodshed and revolution.

Nigeria to-day has essentially two political objectives: to attain full self-government and independence, and to see that all the component parts of Nigeria remain united.

The struggle for political independence has been eventful, but has at no time expressed itself in bloodshed. Political consciousness took hold of Nigeria after World War I. Following the failure, in 1920, of the West Africa Congress to achieve progressive reform of the Constitution, ensuring adequate African representation in the Legislatures of the various British West African Colonies, the Congress abandoned the idea of linking all the British West African possessions as one political entity. It therefore decided to continue the fight territorially, this fight to be spearheaded by indigenous sons. In Nigeria the mantle of this struggle fell on the shoulders of the late Herbert Macaulay, founder of the Nigeria National Democratic Party. By this time,

Nigeria had been unified as an administrative and legislative unit, under Lord Frederick Lugard, in 1914. From 1914 until the Richards Constitution, popularly known as the "Richards Constitution", after its author, now Lord Milverton, was designed, according to Lord Milverton, to promote the future unity of this country; to express its diversity and to increase the discussion and management by Nigerians of their own affairs. Nigerians were in the majority (very slight though) both in the Regional and Central Houses.

The first real political advance made in Nigeria came as a result of the introduction of the Macpherson Constitution. This Constitution was named after Sir John Macpherson, the first Governor-General of Nigeria under the present Constitution, and now Permanent Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office. To-day, we are now fixing a date for final independence.

Members will recall that the attempt in this House, in 1953, to fix a date for complete self-government, was the cause of a grave constitutional crisis. To-day, however, as a result of the experience we have gained, as a result of our tolerance and mutual respect for one another, and above all, because the love of the country transcends any other consideration, we have to-day, with one mind, agreed to agree on the subject we disagreed on years ago.

I should here like to pay sincere tribute to my Friend and Colleague, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Leader of the N.P.C., for the teamwork which has prevailed between the two parties we represent in this Federal Legislature. Without such a co-operation, a day such as this would not have been possible. Largely as a result of this co-operation, a solid foundation has been laid on which an effective system of Federal Government can be built. Without the good sense of the Opposition, without its blessing and Amen, we would not have achieved the unanimity that this type of Motion calls for. (Applause.)

For as long as many of us can remember, the vision of a single Nigeria, governed by ourselves, has been the guiding influence of our lives, and the dearest object of our hearts. Our young students, not only in the United Kingdom, but also in the United States of America, have stated categorically, time and time again, that they would abhor the partition of their country, under any circumstances. Moreover, these

views, as hon. Members are aware, have recently been endorsed by our own men and women at Ibadan University College.

One further name I feel must be mentioned as having made an outstanding and practical contribution towards the cause of our country's unity. I refer, of course, to the Sardauna of Sokoto. All Nigerians must, I am sure, have said a small prayer of thanks for the initiative the Premier of the Northern Region took in calling his colleagues of the other two Regions. The speedy manner in which Dr Azikiwe and Chief Awolowo responded to the Sardauna's gesture is surely commendable, and augurs well for the future of this country. (Applause.)

The adoption of this Amendment by the House does not, however, mean that we merely sit back and do nothing until 1959. There are still many small steps to be climbed, and it is as well that we take these gradually, so that when 1959 is reached, the change-over will be as smooth as possible, and the good government of the country will continue uninterrupted. You do not train a man to be a high jumper by setting the height in front of him at 6 feet 6 inches. As Members are aware, in high jumping competitions, the height is reached gradually, till when it is 6 feet 6 inches, the jumper experiences no difficulties in leaping over it. Likewise, we must have our Federal Prime Minister, an all-Nigerian Council of Ministers, *et cetera*, before 1959. (Applause) so that these offices may be working smoothly by the time they are required to function completely independent of Great Britain. In other words, immediately after the forthcoming London Constitutional Conference, these preliminary and essential changes must be made.

Moreover, we must prepare for Independence Day itself. As Members are aware, I have recently returned from the celebrations inaugurating our new sister State of Ghana. There in Accra, I realised the amount of preparation which was required to be made on such a day. A new sports stadium had to be erected, a triumphal arch and National monument put up, and adequate accommodation arranged for all the foreign guests invited. These arrangements required foresight and planning and could not be executed overnight. Moreover our State Bank must be ready. Mr Speaker, I look forward that the special stamp which will commemorate this day instead of

being printed abroad, will be printed here in Nigeria. (*Applause.*)

I should like, Mr Speaker, to emphasise that the greatest desire of the Nigerian people, its workers, its scholars, its students, every single citizen, is the promotion of a united and unified country operating through a strong Federal Government which will enjoy the confidence and respect of the world. In order to forge a new nation of Nigeria, someone must be prepared to make sacrifices. Individuals must forget themselves in order that greater things might emerge and strengthen the generations to come.

Our aim must be to place this country above the whims and fancies of individuals in our effort to build a mighty nation. Great heroes in other countries have submerged their egos in order to build a nation. Alfred the Great, when he was driven away from England by the Danes, took shelter in a hamlet and prayed, "Gracious Heaven, if I am not worthy to save this land from the Danish sword, raise up some other heroes to fight with more success than I have done and let me spend my life in this little humble cottage." That is the spirit of greatness.

It would have been a great political blunder to go to the London Conference without ascertaining the wishes of this very important Legislature of the land.

We shall be the humble bearers of your mandate. You are aware that our task is immense. There were many unresolved matters during the last conference which will emerge significantly during this coming conference. I am sure that, with God's guidance, we will come out on top. I do hope that the statesmen of our country will triumph and will put the security of the whole of Nigeria before anything else.

I cannot imagine any Briton discussing the security of Scotland or of Wales when the security of the whole British Isles had not been guaranteed, nor do I see an American patriot being more concerned with the security of individual states than of the United States. It is axiomatic that a part cannot be equal to a whole.

I salute, Mr Speaker, this Legislature, and all the parties associated with it for being the first Legislature of this country to agree and endorse a firm date for the Independence of this country.

By this act, it has helped to solve some of the delicate matters awaiting us. By this act it has made the question of Regional self-government easier.

My Party, the N.C.N.C., advocated and supported independence for 1956. Then the North objected to the fixing of a firm date. Last year, the Sardauna made a statement fixing the date for the Regional self-government for the North for 1959. My Party welcomed this move, and last year at the Summit Conference sponsored by the Eastern Government, my Party agreed to adopt the date fixed for the North self-government as the same date for the Independence of the entire country. We did this in the spirit of compromise in the firm belief that any independence without the North is sham. . . . (*Applause.*) . . . and it is unthinkable and untenable.

In this frame of mind the Opposition, I mean Her Majesty's Opposition, is joining, and to-day our declaration is unanimous.

The University students of Ibadan will now witness a new nation, a new method. Mr Speaker, to-day, we are telling these young stars of our country, the men and women for whom we are laying this foundation, our future ambassadors and specialists, that their march to this sacred edifice of democracy, their demonstration of faith, has not been in vain. This nation will rise, it is rising, and we shall consecrate and dedicate it to the service of God and humanity.

Mr Speaker, my Friend Abubakar talked about his apprehension of the North not catching up with the South. His historical analysis has been sound and correct, but let it be known that this Federation will not endure, nor will it fulfil its highest objective when any of its parts is weak. We have a collective responsibility to elevate any member of the family to a full and equal benefit. This policy must be pursued with vigour. I have faith in the North, I am proud of its history. The North has more claim to Ghana Empire than Gold Coast; that Gold Coast has recalled the old glory and adopted the name is a tribute to the creative and imaginative genius of the North. . . . (*Applause.*)

Nigeria is determined to achieve this independence within the Commonwealth. Her Majesty, in her speech at Guildhall on 22nd of February, 1956, on her return from Nigeria,

said; "I hope that she (meaning Nigeria), will always remain a member of our brotherhood of freely associated nations and will play her part in it with ever increasing force, to her own advantage and to the advantage of the Commonwealth."

We are happy to be associated, now and after independence, with Great Britain. Great Britain's mastery of human nature, and its adaptability to changing circumstances, has placed her head and shoulders above other Colonial Powers that were unable to read correctly the signs of our times. Of all Colonial Powers Britain was foremost in developing the idea that provision must be made for its dependent territories that will eventually come to nationhood. We are proud to be associated with them.

Mr Speaker, I will close by recalling the last portion of my address during Her Majesty's visit, because it is appropriate to this occasion. On that occasion, I said: "Each passing year our bond with the United Kingdom is strengthened and fortified. This is achieved not by coercion, or by intimidation, or by show of strength, which Your Majesty's Government has in abundance, but by employing the simple human touch in meeting human problems, by offering the best in English life and tradition to the service of the less developed areas of the world under Your Majesty's jurisdiction, and authority, and, above all, by employing the spirit of adaptability in the ever changing tides in world affairs. We salute Your Majesty, and we salute the formidable army of British statesmen who, working under your benevolent disposition, have carved a Commonwealth from amongst the continents of the world, as firmly entrenched as the Rock of Gibraltar, holding resolutely to its own whether in time of plenty or in time of distress. . . . Britain's sense of justice, its efficient and competent Civil Service, have become the heritage and legacy handed on to this country. These we shall always treasure, protect and defend."

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**Mr. Yakubu Wanka, Wazirin Bauchi** (Central Bauchi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion as amended. While doing so I would like to make it clear that this is my own personal observation. Mr Speaker, Sir, I was in this House when the Motion demanding self-Government in 1956 was moved.

Sir, many people in this country talk of the unity of the country but, Sir, they do not mean it in their hearts. All sincere nationalists would like the whole of this country to go together and for this reason, Sir, we must do all that we can to resolve our differences before the attainment of self-government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, after the self-Government Motion, the people of Lagos referred to us hon. Members. . . . (*Several hon. Members: No, not now.*) With your permission, Sir, I would like to say they refer. . . . (*Interruption.*) Well, Sir, I reserve, but I want to make it clear that the North was self-governing long before the British occupation of this country, and nobody would like to think that we do not like to rule ourselves. (*Cheers.*) But, Sir, the self-government that we had before the British occupation is not the type of self-government which we are looking for to-day. Sir, we want self-government which is based on democracy and for this reason we must prepare for it. It is, Sir, because of this preparation that we opposed the self-government Motion of 1953.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are trying to educate our people, giving our boys and girls the highest possible education, so as to man our services, modifying the system of our Local Government, so as to cope with the task ahead and so on and so forth. Sir, can we get all that in one or two years? I, therefore, Sir, appeal to our Friends from the East and from the West to wait for us until we are ready. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is useless for us to have self-government when we cannot manage our own affairs. Although we make policies, these policies cannot be carried out satisfactorily so long as the key positions are not in our hands. Sir, by the grace of Allah, we do hope that by 1959 we shall stand on our own feet. (*Applause.*) It seems ridiculous to me personally that one Region should ask for self-government before the others. I, therefore, appeal to all the Regions to wait until 1959 when the Federation and the Regions will be self-governing at the same time.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment sponsored by Mr Wachuku, M. Maitama Sule, Mr Benson and M. Yakubu Wanka and ably moved by my learned Friend Mr Wachuku. Although, Sir, a lot has been said by the hon. Wachuku, I feel that it is my duty to say a

word or two in support of this Amendment. I am happy Sir, that the Mover of the original Motion, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, Chief S. L. Akintola, has withdrawn the original Motion and has accepted the Amendment. I know he has done this in the interests of the whole country.

May I ask, is there any person in this House who does not want freedom? Is there anyone in this House who wishes to remain in bondage indefinitely? If, therefore we advocate independence in 1959, it must be realised that it is in the best interests of Nigerian unity and for the future building up of a stable Government. The British themselves who for years have been our overlords, were at one time themselves ruled by the Romans, and history is replete with stories of their struggles to free themselves from the heels of the Romans all because they loved freedom. We too love freedom, but we must plan to see that, like Britain, when we do gain that freedom it will be lasting.

We all desire unity, as is evidenced by protests from the Students of the University College, Ibadan, Nigerian Students at Achimota in independent Ghana, as well as from Nigerian Students in Freetown, Great Britain, and Ireland. The Students' National Front, University College, Ibadan, in their memorandum to hon. Members of this hon. House, demanded genuine unity for Nigeria.

I am happy the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. the Minister of Transport said in their speeches this morning that there is now absolute unity in the country. This present constitution is not good enough for Nigeria. Let our delegates, therefore go to the London Conference and return to the country with a constitution that gives us genuine unity to gladden all our hearts, then we shall have had a freedom genuine enough to enable us to sing lustily on the lines of the stanza composed by my late friend Mazi Mbonu Ojike—"Freedom for you, freedom for me, Freedom for Zik, freedom for Sadauna, Freedom for Awolowo, freedom for Balewa, Freedom for Mbadiwe, freedom for Akintola, Everywhere, there must be freedom". (Applause).

I am happy that we agree to wait until 1959 for the whole of Nigeria to have self-government, at the same time, thereby ensuring a stable united Nigerian Government, that will make our hearts, like those of the children of Israel, when they escaped from Egyptian

bondage to the land of Cannan and saw the promised land, leap for joy.

The transitional period between now and 1959 will be a time during which we may settle the question of states and Regional boundaries and getting ready the governmental machinery for our independence in 1959. During this transitional period also, the Government Bench must be filled with Nigerian Ministers. It is incumbent that we must decide in this House, to-day, the exact date for independence, I am supporting the Amendment that it should be in the year 1959, but if our delegates should come back with only an amended constitution and no fixed date for independence, they must beware of the "Ides of March," for there surely will be such repercussions that will blacken the history of Nigeria's emergence into nationhood, and our children's children will bemoan the day their Fathers taught them the word "Nationalism." Besides, during the transitional period, we would have time to decide on what is going to be our National emblem, our National flag and to have composed our National Anthem. All these would take some time, if we must have the best. We must also take into consideration the gigantic task that will face us in the planning of our independence celebrations. We would have to order buntings and flags and engage the services of decorators. How then can all this be done satisfactorily, if we were to have self-government before 1959.

We all want freedom, for we all love our country, but are there any here who will say that they do not love this country, and, therefore, do not wish her to take her rightful place within the Commonwealth of Nations? Then, in the words of Sir Walter Scott, I will say: "If such there be, go mark him well."

Mr Speaker, Sir, now that our political party leaders each have members in each of the three Regional legislative Houses, either forming the Government or forming the Opposition, I do not see why we should not meet ourselves half way and agree to wait with the North until 1959 and let us all have independence under a revised constitution more suited to a country of this size and population. (Cheers).

Referring to our leaders, Sir, I recall the concluding portion of the welcome address presented to our delegates to the Ghana

Independence celebrations by our students at Achimota. The address concludes as follows:—

We would like to conclude by saying that it is our sincere belief that all in Nigeria (except, perhaps, our major political leaders) are ready for self determination and that our country to-day presents a picture of eager citizens surging and milling behind barriers laid on the path to Nigerian freedom by the intractable ideas of their political leaders. Unless it is possible for you to remove these obstacles, the greatest service you can do to Nigeria is to keep out of the way and allow God, time and events to appoint a leader who would steer the vital, effusive Nigeria to the land of her hope. We have not the time to make positive suggestions of what should be done but have to remind you that the activities of Ghana from now onwards will make it impossible for the *status quo* to be maintained in Nigeria and you may discover at the eleventh hour that those of us who are willing to follow your lead are driven by despondency to prefer the more active but less noble guidance of any who with Milton may prefer to rule in hell than serve in Paradise.

To our expatriates, Mr Speaker, there is no one in this House who will say he does not realise the good work they have done to help us steer the ship to where we are at present. Speaking from the bottom of my heart, we all appreciate the good work they have done and can assure them that when the ship gets home and independence is attained, they will be recompensed, for we will consider those who may wish to retire for additional allowance along with their pensions, and those who wish to stay will receive our right-hand of fellowship.

In conclusion, Sir, I appeal to everyone here in this hon. House to bury *self* and think of Nigeria as one unit; for it was Hannah Moore in her poem *Florio* who summed up this folly in man to think only of himself in the following two lines:—

*In men this blunder still you find,  
All think their little set mankind.*

Despite this apologia of Hannah Moore, Sir, I think in the interest of the common man whom God so loved that he made in millions, we must at this crucial moment appeal to our national conscience for guidance and forget and bury *self*, realising that it is the thirty-two million Nigerians, the majority of whom we are to serve and who are common men, that

we are fighting for; and also take into consideration the words of Ruskin:—

*Make your national conscience clean, and  
your national eyes will soon be clear.*

Mr Speaker, Sir, if it happens that the Western Region will have Regional self-government, I hope they will not forget the question of the Mid-West State and the Lagos and Colony State. (Hear, hear).

Mr Speaker, freedom we want for all, and that freedom we must have at all costs. Freedom for you, Mr Speaker, freedom for me, freedom for everybody and everywhere there must be freedom. (Laughter).

Mr Speaker, I beg to support. (Applause).

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion as amended and as was ably proposed this morning by my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku. In doing so, Sir, I would like to place on record the magnanimous and statesmanlike gesture of the indefatigable Leader of the Opposition in withdrawing, in the interest of the country, the original Motion; and we congratulate with him the gallant members of the Opposition in supporting the amended Motion with so much sincerity and enthusiasm. (Cheers).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the issue before us calls for the most sober thought and discussion. We are not now concerned with the struggle for freedom. That struggle is over. What we are now concerned with is the decision as to when we wish to accept the heavy and exacting responsibilities of self-government or independence, whichever you wish to name it.

Let me begin by explaining my own position. I am a nationalist and I believe that our country and our people have a great destiny before them. I believe, too, that they will only achieve their destiny when they are completely free to regulate their own affairs according to their own lights. It is because I hold these beliefs and because I wish to play my part in hastening our independence that I am in politics and in this House. (Hear, hear).

When we talk of being nationalists what do we mean? And what are we striving for? Is it for the Yoruba nation or the Ibo nation or the Hausa nation? Or is it for something

greater? In a multi-racial society such as ours there must be tolerance if the country is to be ruled not by considerations of race but in the conception of nationhood. That is why my nationalism is directed first and foremost to the creation of one Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). I retain all my local patriotism, and my love for my own town and for the people among whom I was born and grew up is second to none. But I believe that Nigeria transcends them all and that my first loyalty is to Nigeria and that it is my duty and the duty of every Nigerian to show tolerance, sympathy and understanding for every other Nigerian.

Let me add that this is not just sentiment. Of course, sentiment must come into it as it must come into all our human relationships. Nigeria as a geographical entity was created by the British and, whether in co-operation with the British or in opposition to them, we Nigerians have learnt to work together. Common purposes and common endeavours inevitably create strong ties of sentiment. But I am just as much influenced by considerations of sound practical commonsense. I have moved about the world a bit and if I have learnt one thing it is that a nation of over 30 million Nigerians will count for something in the councils of the world. Five or six independent countries with populations of five or six or even ten millions each will count for much less.

As a nationalist believing in one Nigeria, I welcome what I assume to be implicit in the motion namely that self-government should come to the whole of Nigeria at one and the same time. The time is close ahead, and I believe that the short breathing space that the amended Motion gives us, is very necessary.

In my view it would be folly to rush into a matter of this magnitude. I want independence and self-government as much as anyone else, but I want our self-government and our independence when they come to be something real and worthwhile.

Mr Speaker, it is always tempting for us nationalists to regard ourselves as being engaged in a life and death struggle with the Imperialists. But I ask you—where are the Imperialists to-day? Whatever past attitudes may have been, the truth to-day is that it is not the British who are holding up our self-government. When Zik came back from the last

London Conference and said that they had brought self-government on a platter of gold, he was only speaking the truth. In fact, Britain is handing us self-government on a platter. The declared policy of the United Kingdom in its dependencies is to work in partnership with the people of those countries to build up new nations capable of governing themselves and capable of standing on their own feet politically and economically; nations endowed with an honest and effective administration, the rule of law, freedom of the individual and the final safeguard provided by a system of government based on parliamentary democracy. (*Hear, hear*)... As hon. Members have already said the proof that these aims are honestly followed lies in the events of the last decade—the emergence as nations of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, the Sudan and now Ghana—almost 500 million people freely released from what the Communists choose to call the “Imperial yoke”. And it should not be forgotten that the Dominions of Canada, Australia and New Zealand were at one time Colonies. The Federation of Malaya becomes independent on the 31st of August of this year and the next of the British territories to come of age, will, we all hope, be our great country Nigeria.

I repeat—I want to accept independence no less than anyone else; and I want to accept it as soon as possible. But I want to be reasonably sure that when it comes it will have a meaning not only for the Ministers and the politicians but for the millions of ordinary people in Nigeria. (*Applause*). I believe that while the people want to organise themselves for certain purposes into Regions or States, they nevertheless want Nigeria to be one. They want a strong Federation bound together by a strong Federal Government and bound together also by a far greater degree of tolerance and understanding between the component Governments than exists to-day.

Let us not make the mistake of thinking that self-government is a goal and an end in itself. If that was the case there would be every reason to put on a last lap sprint and breast the tape and sit down triumphantly to rest. But as Dr Nkrumah has warned his people, the achievement of self-government is a beginning and not an end. What concerns me most is that we are taking our places at the starters post in this great event not as a single

well trained and well co-ordinated team, but as a number of teams competing one with the other.

If I prefer the year 1959 to 1957, it is not because I believe that miracles can be worked in two short years. But I do believe that a breathing space will be valuable and if we use it in a genuine attempt to get together and to work out a blue print for Nigerian (as distinct from Regional) self-government we will be approaching our independence on a far sounder basis.

There is still a great deal of thinking and of work to be done before we finally commit ourselves to assume the mantle of self-government. We, the politicians and leaders of to-day, are going to have to answer to posterity for what we do—not only to our own children but to all Africa. That is why I want to pause for a little at this stage. Whatever anyone may say we are all in need of this pause both so that we may consolidate what we have gained and so that we might together think out the next vital step.

There are sound administrative reasons why a hurried transfer of full responsibility should be deferred. Few people outside the Government and the Governments of the Regions fully understand the great strain to which the public service has been subjected as a result of the major changes that were brought about by the 1954 Constitution. The Federal form of Government is acknowledged to be the most complicated to administer, but within two and a half years we can say that the Governmental machine is running as smoothly as it ever did. That we have come triumphantly through that period is due to the devoted service given by the Civil Servants both Nigerians and expatriates.

Nevertheless, there are serious difficulties. The foundations of a Foreign Service are just being laid: there are over 800 vacancies in the senior grades of the Service—many of them in technical and scientific occupations which affect our development plan. During the next two years we can expect some hundreds of our students who are being trained abroad or locally to join the Service. Besides this the Government machine will shortly have to undergo another period of strain and adaptation when the results of the London Conference come to be translated into action. Important changes in the organisation of the armed

forces are in process of being carried out. This is hardly the best time to undertake the great responsibilities of self-government.

If some members of the House should think that the pace is too slow, let them remember that India had nearly two centuries of British rule before it took over its own destinies; in the Gold Coast the first Legislative Council was set up in 1850—more than a century ago. But it was only in 1900 that the administrative rights of the Royal Niger Company were taken over by the British Crown. In fact we have moved and are moving faster than any people have ever done in the whole history of the world.

I said just now that we must pause for reflection and for consolidation. Let me expand on this.

To take first the economic field. Industrialisation must be pressed forward to broaden the basis of our economic life; but the Regions should not be rivals in this. They are not competitive, but should rather regard themselves as contributing not so much to Regional prosperity as to the economic viability of the Federation. Dr Nkrumah in his Independence Day speech said that the income per head of the people of Ghana was two and a half times that of Nigeria. I doubt the validity of these figures since we have no up-to-date National Income statistics; but it is in any case fair to point out that we are six or seven times more numerous than the people of Ghana and have a diversified agricultural economy which is not, as in Ghana, dependent on a single crop. We have coal of which Ghana has none and her manganese is matched by our tin and columbite. I have no fears for our economic future as an independent country so long as we all pull together and realise that the economic health of the smallest part of our Federation should be the concern of the whole Federation and so long as we create the climate of confidence which will attract outside capital investment to help in Nigeria's development. As has been mentioned already during this Session one of our great needs is for additional capital.

I am concerned too, to ensure that we have a public service adequate to our needs. It is essential to any self-governing state that it should possess a public service of the highest quality. The aspirations of the people, which in a democratic state are translated into plans

and policies by the elected government, will remain aspirations and will come to nothing unless there is available to the state a body of highly trained and disciplined public servants. I use the word "disciplined" not in the sense of being regimented. The qualities I look for in public servants are first and foremost a strong sense of integrity. Integrity goes beyond the mere avoidance of actions that might be called corrupt. It is a positive quality. The civil servant of integrity is a man who gives his advice sincerely and fearlessly and without regard to personal or sectional interests; who, when a government decision is taken, implements that decision, again without regard to personal or sectional interests. He must be prepared to serve with equal fidelity a Minister of a different political complexion from his own. He never forgets that he is the servant and not the master of the public. He believes that he is paid for doing a job and not for just putting in so many hours a day. His first concern is to ensure that his job is well done. He is not a clock watcher. I believe that the British Civil Service has achieved a high standard in all these respects and that the expatriates who serve us here in Nigeria reflect very creditably these qualities. I earnestly ask our young men entering the service and especially the graduates who aspire to the higher posts, to set themselves similar standards and to take pride, not so much in their positions, as in the knowledge that they are doing a good job of work. I want to see us build up a service of which a free Nigeria will be no less proud than Britain is of her public service.

Finally, there is the important question of the administration of Justice. May I remind the House of the solemn and inspiring words used by Her Majesty on the occasion of the inauguration of the Courts of the Federation of Nigeria. Her Majesty said:

"The Rule of Law" is vital to the freedom and orderly progress of any society, and we take especial pride in the fact that, in our Commonwealth, the Rule of Law is maintained and that all men are equal in the eyes of the Law. For no society can be stable which is not based on this concept. I am confident that the administration of Justice is safe in the hands of my Judges in Nigeria."

Mr Speaker, I too have every confidence in the Judges of Nigeria. What disturbs me is

not that the Judges will fall short of their duty but that seekers after power will attempt so to undermine the machine that it will fall short of the standards laid down by Her Majesty. After all it is not the Judges who bring people before the courts and for that reason, I cannot support those who seek to regionalise the police and to make such offices as that of the Attorney-General a political appointment. I know that the Attorney-General in the United Kingdom is a political appointment. There are, however, unwritten but profoundly important safeguards in the United Kingdom which are at present absent in Nigeria. The fears that I have mentioned are widely held among the ordinary people of Nigeria. It will be contended that those fears are baseless, as my Friend, Chief Solaru, seems to infer. Be that as it may, they are nevertheless widely held and I can see no reason why we, who claim to reflect the opinion of the people, should not remove these fears by ensuring that the control not only of the judiciary but of all the processes of justice are kept out of the hands of politicians.

Mr Speaker, let no-one think I lack confidence in our ability to make a success of self-government. What I am advocating is not a retreat but a final all-out effort to create the conditions and to prepare the ground for a genuine free and a genuine united Nigeria. We have an active and growing population: a country still rich in possibilities. We have a great and inspiring task before us and each of us should dedicate ourselves to-day to ensure that by our conduct and endeavours in the short space that lies ahead, we shall be ready for and worthy of self-government when the day of our independence dawns, and Mr Speaker, I pray that that independence may be not just the independence of Yorubas, and of Ibos and of Hausas, but the independence of one great people united in one great destiny.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. (Applause).

M. Shehu Shagari (South-West Sokoto): Mr Speaker, Sir, much has been said already on the subject of self-government in this country, but very few people have ever bothered themselves to stop and think of the implications and the complications of this political favourite.

It is a fact that human beings wherever they are love freedom. They love freedom so much in their hearts that they can sacrifice everything: their property, their lives and sometimes even their art of reasoning. Sir, I disagree with anybody who says that self-government merely means the transfer of certain files from one office to the other, as the Opposition would have us to believe.

Sir, some of us love to call freedom self-government or independence, but what it really means very few of us yet know. It is not my intention to elaborate on this but all I want to stress is the fact that Nigeria has to-day reached a stage in its political development when our responsible citizens must realise that the achievement of freedom or self-government or independence, as said by the last speaker, is not an end in itself. I say, Sir, that it is not even a means to an end but only an awakening to the realisation of greater responsibilities, immense sacrifices, and still desirous of unlimited courage.

Sir, we must be ready to face hard facts before we plunge ourselves into dangerous ground. We have reached a stage when freedom for Nigeria is not only desirable but inevitable. Sir, let us talk more and think more of unity without which there can be no real and ever-lasting freedom. (Hear, hear.) Sir, the Motion on the Floor needs no further elaboration because we are already all agreed that Motion or no Motion, Nigeria will, ready or otherwise, shake off the shackles of political bondage or political dependence within the shortest possible time. I think that everybody in Nigeria to-day is agreed that freedom is inevitable, the only controversy being of course on the meaning of freedom and the date for freedom.

Well, some people think that freedom means self-government for their Region to do what they like in their Region; some the opportunity to break Nigeria into bits and pieces; some the chance to acquire new kingdoms or domains; others dream of becoming Premiers of puppet kingdoms, puppet States, dictators and Hitlers; some are more concerned with the fixing of the date for independence; some would have it in 1959, 1960 or even back in 1956; some would even welcome it now. This is the crux of Nigerian politics at the moment. But may I ask, Sir: after self-government or independence what follows?

It is high time, Sir, we put up our plans for an independent Nigeria. Until this is done, all talk about such freedom or independence is merely empty. Sir, the London Conference should result not only in a promise of independence on a fixed date, but also with a definite plan of what the independent Nigeria would look like. (Hear, hear). And how can it be if that plan is not planned right now? We owe it as a duty to our people to present to them our plans for Nigeria before we commit them in the London Conference on how and when Nigeria is to be independent.

It is true that several parties are bent towards their own selfish plans but we cannot afford to be selfish indefinitely. This is a period of emergency and as I said we must come together and forget all our differences and like brothers and responsible grown-ups reach a reasonable compromise with the overall interest of Nigeria as one country being paramount in our hearts, for without unity we can never be truly free.

Before I resume my seat I should like to take this opportunity to sound a note of warning on the future status of a very important section of the people of this country, with regard to Nigeria's constitutional development. It is often overlooked that the percentage of natural rulers, Chiefs or Emirs in this country is extraordinarily great. It will be foolish for us therefore to forget in our plans for the future the fate of this important class. It is common knowledge that modern political development everywhere in the world tends to reduce the powers and position of this class to the advantage of the masses. But in any government save, perhaps, communism, their security and prestige is assured.

What are our plans for their future well-being as power passes from them, as surely it will, to the masses? I am afraid I can see nothing envisaged so far. Sir, in medieval Europe and medieval Britain the lords and barons were the rulers of the masses but when in the end power passed to the latter the former remained overlords and masters of themselves, their castles and their lands while their prestige and dignity remained as strong and secure as the walls of their mighty mansions.

On the other hand in Nigeria their counterparts, the Chiefs, Emirs and others are not endowed with such vast deposits of inherited wealth. They own no land and mansions to let since all they have belongs to the masses.

They live in temporary buildings which become all they possess in the service of their people. At present with still a lot of power in their hands they appear all right, but when self-government comes transfer of power inevitably comes with it. Not only transfer of power from the British to the masses but from the Chiefs as well. After the British power has vanished and the Chiefs' and Emirs' powers wane and dwindle where will the latter be? *Sans* power, *sans* mansions, *sans* lands, *sans* everything. This is a very serious thing for us to think about. With this, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mallam Abdulkadir Koguna** (East Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the amendment and I especially express my gratitude to the Government of this Federation for the very good and attractive amendment they made to this very heavy Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. Chief Akintola.

Though I am a new Member I have some comments to make on this Motion, because this Motion no doubt is a Motion that every citizen of this great Nigeria should contribute something which he thinks is right, and which he thinks will be useful to the future of this country. Sir, I can call this hon. House the Federation of Nigeria because without doubt it represents Nigeria as a whole. As every Member here speaks for and on behalf of the entire population of Nigeria as a whole it follows that if our decision is good it is good for all, and if it is bad of course I cannot say it is bad for all because it can be amended, but the amendment will be a difficult one. For that reason let us protect ourselves and our country from the beginning. Let us bend our iron when it is hot and this is the time for us to bend our iron into any shape. Therefore let us contribute our views so that we can put solid and good foundation for Nigeria not only for ourselves but for our sons and grand-sons. So that we shall leave behind very good historic reputation for the country.

Let us demolish some old thoughts and replace them by new ideology and modern ideas so as to obtain good and useful self-government for all Nigeria. But not self-government that can only be useful and enjoyable in some part of the country; we want self-government that can be useful to every son and daughter of this country.

Sir, let us look forward and backward, left and right because self-government is no joke.

I still urge the hon. Members to try and come to good point and try to achieve good self-government for Nigeria, the land of the thirty-two million people. Everybody wants self-government, even this House. How much more the country as a whole? With these few remarks I beg to support.

**Mr Speaker:** We will have a short break now. I should like to take the Chair at the latest by ten minutes to five; I must have three more speeches.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a happy thing to live and take part in such a debate, when Nigeria tries to fix a date for her independence. Before I go on to give reasons for supporting the Amendment, I think it is necessary to praise the hon. Mr Balewa, in tracing out the historical reasons why it has been believed that the North is not taking up at once with the South. We accept the reasons but I want him to know that in the South many of us do not believe that the Northerners are behind us. We believe that they are still going ahead as we are, and there is no proof to assure us to-day that the Northerners are not as the Southerners.

At the same time, I think it is a natural thing. If two brothers are walking on a journey and one of them happens to be feverish, the other one must wait and see that that one becomes well, so that the two of them will reach the goal of their destination. I think nobody is doubting that the South must give time to the North, so that we all get to the goal of independence at one time and on one date, and in the same year, 1959.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish also to pay tribute to the hon. Chief S. L. Akintola. He has been a very good friend of many of us on this side and on the other side of the House, but to-day has been the only day the Chief has shown that he believes in the oneness of this country. For him to accept the Amendment so easily, Mr Speaker, I owe him praise, and I think the country will remember him for ever for this act of goodness.

Some people have referred to the quest for self-government and independence in this country, but I think it is necessary to remind ourselves that in the early 1930's, when the Nigerian National Democratic Party was formed, followed immediately by what was

called the Youth Movement, the people of this country did not seem to have known that it was necessary for man to look after his own affairs, but in 1947 we all remember, and I believe all the hon. Members of this House do remember, when the NCNC sent a delegation to London. On their return it was believed that British imperialism of this country had been conquered, and I think that was true. Britain, from that time took a different way of looking at Nigeria.

We have been praising Britain for their goodness and kindness in government, but we must not forget that in praising Britain for being good to the people of this country we must also remember Providence who was primarily responsible for the act. What if the West Coast of Africa had not been known as the "White Man's Grave"? Do you think that South Africa would be better than Nigeria and other parts of this West Coast of Africa? In praising Britain we must associate with it, what God has done. Furthermore, the mosquito of West Africa must have his own share of the praise. (*Laughter*). I mean to say if Britain had been given every chance, naturally the people would stay, occupy, and perhaps follow the great nationalist of England in his statement—"What we have we must hold"; so to-day, whatever has come to bring us goodness, we must be grateful—number one, to God—and then secondly, to the people who worked it out.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in my supporting of the Motion for the celebration of independence for Nigeria in 1959, I wish humbly to state that we have not been demanding independence based on hate. We know Britain has tried her best to give us good government, but we are demanding independence as a right. We must not leave it and allow a foreign or alien master race to govern the people, no matter what you should say. An hon. Member from the Opposition has referred to it this morning, and many of my Colleagues themselves tried to oppose, when he said that it is better for you to give yourselves bad government than to allow a foreigner to give you his own best government. I associate myself with him because it is natural. If you wound yourself you won't feel the pain as much as when another man wounds you. If this is right, I think we must accept it that the best foreign government of another people will not be accepted as the bad government of the people themselves.

So we want independence, we want to govern ourselves. In whatever way, we shall be happy to see that we manage our own affairs and carry ourselves to the goal of our own destination.

Mr Speaker, Sir, two factors arise in our present measure of self-government. We have agreed that we are, in a way, self-governing ourselves, but hon. Members have mentioned that in the present government, take the Federation of Nigeria, we have officials in the Cabinet, and we have still the veto powers of the Governors, supported by what they call Royal Instructions. The date is now being fixed; our delegates are hereby being told that on reaching London, these two factors in our present government must be removed. Officials must have their own place outside the Cabinet, the Governor should have no more veto power, and the Royal Instructions will become plain, no more in conspiracy.

Why I am saying that is this: a nation will be responsible when you give the whole chance to the people to try their best; if we continue to be ruled by the secret instructions of officials and Royal Instructions, then we shall not claim to have been ruling ourselves responsibly. So what I am emphasising is that on return from London next May or June, we would be very pleased to find that this country assumes responsible government in its fullness, and that is the period for which we have to prepare, so that before 1959, and after 1959, Nigeria can easily stand and demand Dominion Status from Britain.

An hon. Member has emphasised that that demand is not a begging, and from history we know that Britain does not want anyone to beg. If you prove that you are right, I think that Britain will be the first Nation to give you what you want.

There is no doubt that Nigeria is ready to manage her own affairs, and therefore the Hon. Lennox Boyd, in his usual way, is being told now to prepare to accept a demand for independence in 1959.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure our delegates to the London Conference that this Motion is a mandate, not from a few people, it is a mandate from the 32 million plus people of this country. We are elected from divisional

bases—there is no part of this country that is not represented in this House. I therefore believe that the delegates going to London will make this show—there is no power again to override our decision. No man will come and begin to say, "What are you saying?" We have given a mandate from 32 million people in this country. We demand our independence in 1959. And if there is any trouble, then we will take up that trouble as being the cause of the disunity of this country. If he is a man, he will suffer; if he is the Secretary of State, he will leave that State that day. And I hope by any means that are possible, Great Britain is listening to us. The country demands independence in 1959.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there will be no need to repeat what other speakers have said, but in conclusion I humbly ask that when our delegates reach London, let there be no other reason to return to this country without getting assurance of the celebration of Nigerian independence in 1959; assurance of the officials getting off this Federal Cabinet; assurance of the veto power of the Governors or Governor-General, being abolished; and finally, that the Ministers of State will take up the management of our own affairs by themselves to make the period of transition between now and 1959 a positive proof that Nigeria can manage her own affairs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few words, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (The hon. Chief Kolawole Balogun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am going to be very brief. Many speeches have been made, all that is left is an attestation of faith by Nationalists in this House. It can now be said of us in this hon. House, this Federal House of Representatives, that this is our finest hour. I am sure that many hon. Members will share one experience here to-day—that this country decides to have independence, not only in form, but also in reality, for we cannot be truly free until our minds are free in common association, and in common pursuit. Sir, the great Edmond Burke, speaking on the 3rd of November, 1774, after being declared elected as a Member of Parliament by the City of Bristol, spoke as follows: "Parliament is not a Congress of Ambassadors from different and hostile interests, which interests they must maintain

as an agent and advocate against other agents and advocates, but Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest,—that of the whole—where, not local purposes, not local prejudices ought to guide, but the general good resulting from the general reason of the whole."

Sir, the learned and honourable Leader of the Opposition, Chief S. L. Akintola, has indicated this quite clearly in this House to-day. I must say that by this action, he has contributed in no small measure to our progress towards self-determination, by making our decision—unanimous. (*Interruption*).

**Chief S. L. Akintola**: We set an example for Nigeria.

**The Minister of Research and Information**: Now that we, the people of Nigeria, in parliament assembled, have declared our faith and determination unanimously to achieve our own independence, let everything that we do from now on go to confirm this decision, consciously and freely taken by us. Nigeria is a large territory, and her problems are therefore great and manifold, but with sincere understanding of ourselves we shall reach our goal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate two great sons of this Federation of Nigeria, who are playing and have played a most vital part in the affairs of this Federation, and who have made it possible for what is happening here to-day to take place; who have made it possible for those of us who are Members of this hon. House to take part in this history which is in the making. I refer, Mr Speaker, to the hon. the Minister of Transport, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and the Minister of Communications and Aviation, Dr K. O. Mbadawe, who have, by their patience, their tact and self-effacement, shown that the people of this country can work together.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. (*Applause*.)

**Mr O. C. Agwuna** (Awka): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am only the voice of the people. I only want to add a few words to the Motion as amended, because I feel one or two points seem to have been omitted. It is not my intention to touch any point that has been covered by the previous speakers; I also do not want to lay any emphasis on those points. I only want to touch points which to my mind have not been mentioned at all.

First of all, in congratulating the Leader of the Opposition, and those who have assisted in amending the original Motion, I want to say that we must start from now, to learn to avoid the desire to lay too much claim of ownership or originality to serve in any good work, which would be better claimed as the work of us all.

Many Members who spoke on the Motion as amended wanted to give the impression that it was not this man or that man who originated the idea of the Motion for self-government. To pursue that very bad point would be ruinous to the idea behind the Motion. That is my first warning. The second is, that I want to join the Minister of Research and Information in congratulating the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Communications and Aviation. (*Applause*.) This Motion as amended has been the result of the attitude, the behaviour, the conduct, of Members of this House towards one another. If we want this Motion as amended to be a reality in 1959, we must try to continue to behave ourselves to impress ourselves, not to do anything by words or by deed which will give people from various parts of the country the impression that one man is superior to the other.

The other point I want to make is certain assignments which might not be clear to some Members of this House. I think the Council of Ministers have got two assignments between now and 1959. Number one assignment is this. Mallam Balewa, in his speech mentioned the issue of 46,000 Members of the Federal Public Service. I would like the Council of Ministers, not only the African Members of that Council of Ministers, but also the officials, because, as I speak now, my mind is set with the belief that just as African members are interested in this question of self-government, or independence, the officials too are also interested because, after all, if we are free we shall have better opportunity of becoming more friendly.

The Council of Ministers must try to find a workable means or a device by which the Northerners will be given not only the impression, but the practical assurance that Northerners, no matter their limitations academically, will be fitted in properly and better proportionately.

The second issue is that the Council of Ministers—and this time I mean the African

Members—must take the initiative; it is an appeal from this House, to impress upon the leaders of the major political parties to take more interest in the Federal set-up.

Now, one assignment for the various political parties in the South, and I refer particularly to the East and the West. They should consider whether it will not be necessary for the East and the West to sort of move one step backward and mark time in the interests of the North and the interests of the whole country. After all, if the North says, "I will be ready in 1959 for Regional self-government", the sections of the South which may be ready for self-government now, or last year, though they will be losing, at the same time it will be an act of sacrifice, it will be a good gesture, if they say to the North, "Although we are ready now for self-government, for your sake we will delay it till 1959." Now, I do not think any sacrifice will be too great for any of the southern sections to make.

After all, you all remember one of the leading members of the Action Group Party, or the Action Group Government in the Western Region, in the person of Anthony Enahoro, a young man like that, actually suffered imprisonment three times for this country. Now, for a man like that, in his age, in his youth, to suffer so much of physical mortification, I do not think it will be too much a sacrifice for either the East or the West to wait till 1959 so that freedom or independence will be unanimous at all levels.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode** (Ifé): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very momentous occasion. As from to-day Nigeria is free—free because, as from to-day, we speak with one voice, acknowledging Nigerian freedom. It will only take us two years to take over the machinery for running that freedom because, principally, freedom is a matter of the will, and the spirit, and the new spirit of Nigeria is born to-day. I hope it will live in us, and I hope it will live for ever.

A few Members to-day said that freedom is an inalienable right, that we have the right to freedom. I must say, with all respect to them, that in the world of to-day there is no inalienable right to freedom. Freedom must be fought for and won.

I would also like to say that in the present decade Great Britain has historically split the atom. By that I mean that, looking back in



history it has never been known for any nation in servitude to be freed by the grace of the Master Race. It has never been known, excepting Ceylon and Ghana. But Great Britain subjectively has changed the course of history. We live in our times, and most of us are so occupied with the present and our own difficulties here that we do not look at this issue from the broader aspect.

A gentleman in this House said that Great Britain finds it easy to adapt herself to circumstances. That is not correct. Great Britain is adapting circumstances to herself now, because Great Britain is the only country I know that has willingly surrendered self-government to subject races to create a Commonwealth. A lot of people might be surprised that this comes from me. I was not attuned on that wavelength at all. I had always believed that, like other nations, we have to suffer and fight for freedom. I had always prepared my mind towards that end, and had always tried to prepare the minds of our people to that end. But Great Britain has made it completely unnecessary. It is a surprise to me and, I am sure, that attitude of mind is a pleasant surprise to the whole world. I am certain that if other colonial powers—like France, Portugal, Belgium and Holland—will emulate the new spirit that is born to-day, and on that day when Ghana attained freedom, the world will be a better place to live in.

I would also like to say that in the past we, I am certain all of us, had felt some slight in being labelled British, members of the British Empire. But I can assure this House that from the day we are free we shall not only like to be labelled British, but we shall be labelled British and be proud of it, for then we shall be members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and then I can stretch the hands of friendship to the Chief Secretary to the Government—because I am certain at that time he might be the British Ambassador in Nigeria.

I am certain that the only barrier between ourselves and officials to-day is not because we hate them. I want them to appreciate that. And I am not saying this to make them feel good. I am saying this because I believe it. Most of us have not believed in our White Officials because it is the very thing we admire in them that they detest in us. I will not believe that Great Britain would for one moment subject herself to any domination,

however benevolent that domination might be. Why then should we? And I must thank the Britishers in this country for putting that spirit in us. I remember, and I must thank again the old principals of King's College, who taught us British history, how they fought for freedom, how this man did this and another did that. At the time I do not know whether they realised the far reaching effects. We at the time were applying our minds to Nigeria on the same lines.

We believe that it is proper for members of all races first and foremost to fight for their own country and then later think of international relations. Nigerian freedom must not be to us the end of our struggles. As somebody said this morning "Nigerian freedom is just the beginning of our struggles". I would not like to see flags and bunting and festivities on the day of Nigerian freedom. I would like that day to be a national day of prayer: to pray that we have got out of servitude and to dedicate ourselves to the service of this country. I hope, and I am certain that, all Members of this House will take it in good faith that such dedication is necessary. It is not a day of pleasure, it is a day when we shall have to start tightening our belts. It is a day when we shall start to realise that the concept of freedom is not easy. It is a day when we shall have to realise that we shall have to stand in the zoo of international politics, where the survival of the fittest is the rule. Freedom to us should mean an opportunity for total galvanisation of all our powers and all our energies; it should mean an opportunity for achievement and an opportunity to jump over centuries of development. We cannot afford a gradual evolution like Great Britain. (*Hear, hear*). We have to jump through centuries of Western civilisation and I believe we can succeed, as Japan and Russia have also succeeded.

Last of all I would like to say that I have the mandate of this side of the House and I am certain I shall have the mandate as well from my Friends on the other side of the House to say, that we are prepared to co-operate with the North the whole way, in order to hasten the day of freedom in Nigeria. (*Applause*). I can assure this House, if the North is to-day considered backward, we cannot sit down in the West or in the East and say the North is backward. If the North is backward, Nigeria is backward. (*Hear, hear*). If there is any Member of this legislature or any servant of

the Government or persons of goodwill who can do anything towards the race of the Northerners to keep step with us, we give you that assurance to-day, that we shall give you our fullest support. (*Applause*).

In concluding, Sir, I would like to say, I cannot quote from foreign books; I have forgotten most of Shakespeare. But I can say this: that I shall make a small quotation from the marching song of the Action Group Association. We all know that the greatest number of people in Nigeria are either Christian or Muslim. We all know that the cross is the Christian emblem and we also know that the crescent moon is the Muslim emblem. We say:

"Blazoned with crescent moon and cross,  
Our righteous standards proudly fly,  
Triumphant in God's struggle for  
Black rule throughout Black Africa.  
Nigeria, Nigeria: we hail your call;  
We rise to thee;  
In life, in death, we pledge our souls to thee."

I think the concept of a black nation being bound together by their common glory and destiny and being potentially the first African power, apart from the Gold Coast, should be the underlying factor that must unify us. The destiny of a free Nigeria is tremendous. The possibilities of a free Nigeria are without end. A free Nigeria must spearhead the freedom of all black peoples South of the Sahara. I am certain that we can go to our people and tell them that their sacrifice has just started, not for the glory of our nation alone, but for the glory of all African peoples throughout the whole world.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Amendment.

**M. Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki** (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, my well is nearly dried up but still no amount of repetition will be superfluous about the unity of Nigeria, about coming down to a certain agreement of our Leaders, before they leave the shore. Sir, no amount of mandate will be of any advantage, will be of any use to our delegates going to London, unless, Sir, there is the vital issue in Nigeria being a big country with big problems, unless these problems are properly thrashed and drafted out, not covered, Sir, not covered, because if they are covered only superficially covered, they are inferior. Sir, before anything is communicated to the Delegation, before a big quarrel starts, Sir, before anything is done it should go by vote.

All these things are very nice to hear but everyone knows sincerely that we have problems in this country. It is only with tact and understanding we can tackle them. I hope that they are settled before anybody leaves shore. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, in April last year, Mr David Marshall, the then Chief Minister of Singapore, led a Delegation to London. Sir, they arrived in that City, with divided opinions, the result is they did not achieve anything productive and the Delegation returned home in suffering and separated. That is what I am trying to avoid here. Mr Speaker, all this superfluous business about unity should be left away and let us look at the country as one. (*Hear, hear*). Mr Speaker, if the British Government or if the British people have not done anything in Nigeria, they have done at least one thing and that is they have given this vast country a name "Nigeria", the country of the mighty Niger. That is the name that is a new thing to us, whether, after the independence we will continue to retain the word "Nigeria", or we shall be doing away with the British rule, as well as the name that they have already given to this vast country I do not know.

Well, I refuse to be sentimental. That a sister country next door has achieved something, I welcome it and I commend it. It has given us impetus, but I refuse to be sentimental. As men we are masters of our destinies: we shall shape them, not because somebody has got it in Ghana. No. Their history is different. Anything is different, including the phenomenon between the Gold Coast and Nigeria. The old Gold Coast, now Ghana, has given us impetus. That is very good. But we are different people with different problems. They faced theirs and you knew at that time how they handled them. We have not started yet but I am glad a gesture is being made.

I think it is the duty of everybody here and every politician in Nigeria, every Pressman with the radio helping, to see to it that the important questions are settled here first. Otherwise, Sir, I very much doubt whether we would not go to London—I don't say that I will go, but whoever will—to show what sort of people we are. I hate that. Let us not go to the British country and show them that we are still childish in our minds. To avoid this, Sir, the hon. the Saradauna of

Sokoto, the hon. Chief Obafemi Awolowo and the hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe are now coming together, and by the assistance of everyone here and outside we shall help them to solve all these difficulties.

In associating myself with the speech of the hon. the Minister of Transport, Sir, there is one point which I want to make. Self-government is as natural a desire as marriage. Everybody wants to rule himself. That is only natural. But it is inadvisable for a boy to marry while under age: at least, it is inadvisable medically. So the people on this side while saying that the N.P.C. as a Party never decided for a definite date for self-government of this vast country, we mean what we say. We never did sit down and take a decision. That is what the hon. the Minister of Transport has made clear and which view I am supporting. But.....

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): And a big "but"!

**M. Bello Dandago**: Yes, it is a big "but".... (Laughter)... Mr Speaker, Sir, it is gratified by the effective opinion of the North. When I say "effective opinion," Sir, I mean the majority opinion, the people who have sent us here. It has to be ratified by our leaders, by our party leaders, by the Party, by the people and by everybody.....

**Chief S. L. Akintola**: (Oshun West): They have confidence in you!

**M. Bello Dandago**: And I have confidence in them too.... (Laughter)....

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have never set down and decided for a definite date for independence of this Federation. Well, I am glad that for the first time, Sir, the people on this side of the House are not misunderstood as in 1953....

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): That will not happen again.

**M. Bello Dandago**: Well, I hope it will not. So, Mr Speaker, all that I am trying to say is that the nucleus speech of the Minister of Transport is that the N.P.C. never decided for a definite date for self-government for the whole Federation.

Mr Speaker, I would very much hope that our leaders before they leave these shores will put their cards on the table, play them in at very, very good and humorous way and settle things; otherwise I can see trouble ahead.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion as amended.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, to-day is a day of jubilation and if you look attentively, you will see the significance of the day, you will find the example of three in one.... (Applause)....

**Some hon. Members**: Three feathers on one head!

**Chief Onyia**: Well, Mr Speaker, pertinence forbids us in dealing with this Motion to harp on our domestic differences. Mr Speaker, Sir, this House is absolutely competent to discuss any matter within its own competence. Sir, when we in this House pass a Motion, as we are going to do here, we do express the decision of this House. It in no way prejudices whatever the parties existing in the country will do. It does not in any way jeopardise the decisions of the Regional Governments if they feel otherwise. It does not even jeopardise what any other political party may say, but it is the opinion of the House and it may influence the decision of those going to London.

If we are going to return to Nigeria from London successfully, the first item on the Agenda during the Constitutional Conference should be the independence of Nigeria. If that is done, if we succeed in fixing the date for the independence of Nigeria, all other things will follow as day is followed by night. (Applause) Once we people have started to think about Nigeria as a whole, other things, whether dividing Nigeria in this way or not, will not arise; they become domestic issues which will be eventually resolved.

Now, the only thing that will follow after fixing the date in London, if even we return with only that, will be the necessary safeguards for the Federation, so that when you have those safeguards and you agree on the citizenship of every man in Nigeria, and the rights of the minority fixed, any other thing, I am perfectly sure will not matter. When we come back, we shall come back successfully.

Sir, I will not go much further, as time is against me, but there is one thing more I wish to say before I take my seat as I will not let such a Motion lapse. Remembering all that has gone before, all the events that have led us to this day, well, Sir, I would say that I have every reason to be jubilant and thank God.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Abdulkadiri Makama** (Central Zaria): To-day, Sir, Tuesday 26th March, 1957 is a memorable date which will be most prominently recorded in the history of Nigeria. To-day, Sir, we have debated a Motion which when passed will give a very important mandate to the hon. Members who will be representing this country at the Constitutional Conference.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr Speaker**: I think it is the wish of the whole House that we should now come to a decision, which might be unanimous after this memorable debate.

*Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, nemine contradicente*, That this House hereby gives the Federal delegates from the political parties who are going to the Nigerian Constitutional Conference, to be held on the 23rd May, 1957, in London, a mandate to demand independence for Nigeria within the British Commonwealth in 1959.

#### Adjournment

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kola Balogun): Sir, I beg to second.

**Mr L. A. Lawal** (Ibadan East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to defer the subject I wanted to raise on the Adjournment until tomorrow.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at sixteen minutes to six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 27th March, 1957.*

#### QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

*Question—*

**W.138. Mr L. S. Fonka** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power:—

If he is aware that an aerial survey of the Southern Cameroons arranged by the Colonial Survey Organisation last year did not take place; and if he will now arrange that whenever weather permits suitable aerial photographs of Victoria, Buea, Tiko, Kumba and Bamenda be taken to facilitate the preparation of plans suitable for town planning purposes.

*Answer—*

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power**: Tenders for the aerial photography of two areas in Nigeria were invited by Her Majesty's Treasury in February 1956, and contracts were awarded to the Aircraft Operating Company of South Africa Limited to photograph 18,000 square miles of the Southern Cameroons and 15,000 square miles of the Plateau respectively. A survey aircraft arrived in Nigeria on the 29th February, 1956, and remained until the end of May, 1956. It was based on Jos airport. Owing to adverse weather, it obtained only a small number of photographs of the Plateau area and none at all of the Southern Cameroons.

The contract was next extended and another of the Contractor's aircraft returned to Jos on 1st October, 1956, and succeeded in photographing about 13,000 square miles of the Plateau area. It moved to Tiko airport on the 5th December, 1956, and remained there until the 29th January, 1957, when it left Nigeria, having again failed, because of heavy harmattan haze and low cloud, to obtain any photographs of the Southern Cameroons. It is understood that fresh tenders will be invited to complete these two areas and that an aircraft will arrive in the course of this year, the exact date being at present undecided by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys.

The whole cost of this work is being borne by Colonial Development and Welfare Act funds.

The aerial photography referred to is primarily for the purpose of medium-scale topographical mapping, with particular reference to the geological mapping of the Plateau area.

An aircraft chartered by the Federal Survey Department from the West African Airways Corporation is continuously engaged in photography for topographical mapping of large areas in Southern Nigeria and cannot at present be diverted from this heavy programme. If weather conditions permit, it might be possible to attempt the photography of the towns mentioned later in the year.

*Question—*

**W.148. Chief E. O. Omolodun** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation:—

If he is aware that Nigerians returning to their country from the French Ivory Coast are barred from taking their belongings with

them; and if he will take steps to remove this restriction.

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** I am aware that there are currency restrictions in force in the Territory of the Ivory Coast, as elsewhere in French West Africa, which limit the amount of the remittances which may be made to countries outside the French Union. I am not aware of restrictions on the removal of personal property other than money. I am informed that these currency restrictions are applied without discrimination and that the position of Nigerians is in no way different from that of other persons; but if the hon. Member wishes to give me particulars of any case in which he believes hardship may have occurred I shall be happy to make enquiries from the French Consulate-General in Lagos.

Question—

**W.149. M. Hassan Yola** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

When it is proposed to provide wired radio distribution services in Yola, in view of the fact that Yola is next on the waiting list to Ilorin which has recently been supplied with these services.

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** I would refer the hon. Member to my speech in the House on 12th March on a Motion relating to rediffusion services (Official Report, columns 587-593).

It is the intention of the Government to transfer to the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation those responsibilities for rediffusion services which Government has hitherto borne.

Question—

**W.163. Mr P. D. Kpumm** asked the Financial Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware that arrears of the increased pensions approved by this House last financial year have not yet been paid to pensioners in the Northern Region; and if he will give reasons for this unwarranted delay.

Answer—

**The Financial Secretary of the Federation :** No, Sir, except in a few cases where the actual amounts due may have to be recomputed in the light of new factors adduced by the

pensioners concerned. If there are any such cases in the Northern Region, any pensioner affected should make application to his normal paying office.

Question—

**W.166. Mr J. G. Adeniran** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he proposes to invite an expert to advise on the municipal government of Lagos.

Answer—

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The municipal government of Lagos involves many peculiarly difficult problems upon some or all of which it might be most valuable to have expert advice. It seems likely that the best value would be obtained from any such expert advice if it were sought after the forthcoming constitutional conference and when the general shape of constitutional developments is more clearly to be seen. While, therefore, the Government will welcome authoritative guidance in reaching a solution to the problems for which it is responsible in respect of Lagos, there is no immediate intention of inviting anyone specially to undertake this task.

Question—

**W.174. M. Muhammuda Bello, Sarkin Paiko** asked the Minister of Land, Mines and Power :—

If he will consider translating the Minerals Ordinance into Hausa for use by Hausa business men wishing to engage in gold and tin mining.

Answer—

**The Minister of Land, Mines and Power :** No, Sir. I do not think this is necessary at present as those engaged in gold and tin mining understand English.

Question—

**O.183. M. Nuhu Bamalli** asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state the total mileage of Trunk Roads A in Zaria Province, indicating what proportion of this has a bituminous surface.

Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** The total mileage of Trunk Roads A in Zaria Province is 312 miles of which 58 miles has a bituminous surface.

Question—

**O.184. M. Nuhu Bamalli** asked the Minister of Works :—

When he proposes to lay a bituminous surface on the Kaduna-Mondo section of Trunk Road A.1.

Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** Financial provision for providing a bituminous surface on the Kaduna-Mando section of Trunk Road A.1 was not included in the current programme. It is unlikely, therefore, that it will be possible to carry out this work until after 1960.

Question—

**O.185. M. Nuhu Bamalli** asked the Minister of Works :—

How soon he proposes to fulfil his promise to complete the Zaria-Paki-Kano section of Trunk Road A. 1 in 1957.

Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** I am not aware of having made any promise to complete the new Zaria-Paki-Kano road in 1957. This road will be completed I hope in 1959. At present work is in progress on three major bridges, one over the Challowa River and two over the Kogin-Kano River.

Question—

**O.267. Mr L. O. Tobun** asked the Minister of Works :—

If he will state the number of registered expatriate building contractors and registered indigenous Nigerian contractors respectively, to whom contracts were assigned by the Department of Federal-Public Works in the period 1954-56, indicating the total number of contracts and their value awarded to each of the two categories in that period.

Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** None, Sir. Contracts are awarded by the Federal Tenders Board and not by the Federal Public Works Department.

Question—

**O.268. Mr L. O. Tobun** asked the Minister of Works :—

If he is aware of the disparity in the number and value of contracts awarded to expatriate contractors *vis-a-vis* indigenous Nigerian contractors; and if he will make a statement to show what he has done to ameliorate the position of the latter.

Answer—

**The Minister of Works :** Yes, Sir, and as I told the House on Thursday last week, the present contract policy is under active review. I am not in a position yet to make a statement of future policy.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 27th March, 1957

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

## Question—

\*O.218. Mr E. C. Akwiwu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

What efforts he is making to extend telephone services in Orlu Division.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation (Mr U. O. Ndem): Sir, the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme provision has been made to extend Orlu telephone exchange and the subscribers' network of line at Orlu and Ndizuogu. In addition it is intended to provide telephone trunks from Orlu to Ikeduru and to Ihiala, and additional trunks to Owerri.

## Question—

\*O.219. Mr E. C. Akwiwu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider the advisability of installing telephones in all hospitals, colleges and training institutions throughout Orlu Division.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The desirability of installing telephones in all hospitals, colleges and training institutions throughout the Orlu Division is appreciated. The practicability of connecting telephones depends upon the proximity of telephone exchanges to the places where the telephones are required, or upon the construction of long subscribers lines to a remote exchange. Long lines, or the provision of Exchanges, interconnected with Trunk lines, are expensive and thus the problem of practicability is one of expense. The White Paper on telecommunications shortly to be laid before this hon. House shows how much work can be done with funds at present available.

I shall be pleased to receive and record applications for telephone service and to connect lines as and when practicable.

## Question—

\*O.238. Chief E. O. Omolodun asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider extending telephone services to the following towns in Oyo Division: Ikoyi, Kishi, Shaki, Okeho, Fiditi, Ilora and Awe.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: In the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme, provision has been made for the telephone exchange to subscribers' network of lines at Shaki with telephone trunks to Iseyin and Oyo and for call offices at Fiditi and Ilora. There are no proposals for Ikoyi, Kishi and Okeho.

## Question—

\*O.239. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider providing a departmental mail-van to convey Her Majesty's mail between Benin and Ubiaja since no efficient contractor is prepared to undertake the job.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The contractor at present responsible for the service has not been satisfactory and the contract will be terminated on the 1st June, 1957. Tenders for a new contract have been invited and it seems likely that it may be possible to negotiate a satisfactory one. If this fails, the possibility of introducing a Departmental van service will be examined.

## Question—

\*O.240. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How soon the building of the post offices at Ubiaja and Ikpoma for which provision was made in 1956-57 Estimates will commence.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Provision for a new type post office at Ubiaja is made in the Department's Construction Programme for 1957-58.

A Departmental post office is not warranted at Ikpoma. The postal agency however will be converted to a sub-post office in accordance with the White Paper on post offices presented to the House this Session.

## Question—

\*O.241. Mr G. O. Ebea asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

How soon he will extend telephone services to individual subscribers throughout Ishan Division.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: New cable has been laid at Ubiaja so that new subscribers can now be connected to that exchange.

In the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme provision has been made for telephone exchanges with their network of subscribers lines and trunk facilities at Irrua, Uromi and Ewohimi. Applicants for telephone service within the service area of these exchanges will be provided with service.

## Question—

\*O.244. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state the cause of the delay in opening the new post office built at Okigwi several months ago.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The Council petitioned that I should not open this post office until telephone facilities had been provided to it. I hope that these facilities will be provided by the end of May, but if the local council have now changed their minds I should be pleased to accede to their request that it be opened earlier.

## Supplementary to O.244—

Mr A. E. Ukattah: How soon will the Minister consider opening this post office?

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary: I think the answer is clear that when the Local Council have changed their minds and give us an indication the post office will be opened.

## Question—

\*O.245. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will give the number of Divisional Headquarters in the Eastern Region where telephone services are available and the number where these services are not available.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The number of Divisional Headquarters in the Eastern Region where telephone services are available is 17. Telephone services are not available at 9 Divisional Headquarters.

## Question—

\*O.246. Mr P. O. Eleke asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he is aware of the public concern over the lack of an aerodrome in Owerri Province, the consequent delay in transport and communication and the attendant economic losses which members of the public suffer; and if he will make a statement.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: As hon. Members are aware, the town of Owerri is situated approximately 42 air miles from Port Harcourt and 60 miles by air from Enugu. In normal circumstances it would be uneconomic for scheduled airline services to serve Owerri as well as Enugu and Port Harcourt. In the past few months, however, a survey has been completed and a suitable site selected for an aerodrome at Onitsha, which is only 36 miles by air from Owerri and is connected by a tarmac road. It is anticipated that construction on the aerodrome at Onitsha will start during the current year.

## Supplementary to O.246—

Chief S. L. Akintola: Why was the airport not located at Owerri?

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary: It was the decision taken at the civil aviation conference that it should be at Onitsha.

## Question—

\*O.250. Mr J. O. Igwe asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state how many persons have been prosecuted in the courts since 1954 for failing to obtain wireless licences.

## Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: According to the available records there has been no prosecution of any person in the courts

during the period 1954-1957 for the failure to obtain a licence to operate a wireless receiving set.

Question—

\*O.259. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he will consider the building of a departmental post office at Bansa as a matter of urgency.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The conditions for the provision of Departmental post offices are contained in the White Paper on Post Offices presented to the House earlier this Session. Bansa, with 6,367 units, does not qualify on volume of business and it is not important as a mail exchange.

Question—

\*O.269. Mr P. U. Mbakogu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

Whether he is aware that instructions have just been passed to three postal agencies in Awka Division—Uga, Achina and Umuchu—to carry their operations to Aro-Ndizuogu in Orlu Division instead of Awka; and if he will give full reasons for this action, and in any case cancel the instruction as it is against the wishes of the people of the areas concerned irrespective of distance.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The aim of the Department is to provide the most efficient service it can at the least cost. In pursuance of this aim, it is the practice generally to control postal agencies from the nearest departmental post office to them as movement of mail is accelerated, and stock replenishments are made easier.

In this particular case, it is operationally desirable that the change should be made. If the hon. Member feels that he has good reason for maintaining the existing arrangements he is invited to represent this case to the Territorial Controller, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Enugu. After this representation and the hon. Gentleman is still not satisfied he could refer the matter back to the Ministry.

Supplementary to \*O.269—

Mr F. U. Mbakogu: Was the wish of the community concerned ascertained before that arrangement?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary: I need notice of that question.

Question—

\*O.270. Mr F. U. Mbakogu: asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state how many telephones there are in Awka Division.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: There are 21 telephones in Awka Division.

Question—

\*O.271. Mr F. U. Mbakogu asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider extending telephone services to Adazi Hospital, Agulu Training College, Nise Training College, Aguata District Council Headquarters, Achina Training College, the Government School, Ajalli and the Ajalli Postal Agency.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: No, Sir. I am not prepared to consider any extension to the proposals set out in Sessional Paper No. 8, 1957.

Question—

\*O.272. M. Usmanu Maitambari asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider transferring the telegraph lines from the route Jega thence to Kware-Giro-Kwaifa-Kende-Besse to Yelwa, distance 160 miles, to the route Jega thence to Yelwa, distance 114 miles and passing through big towns on Trunk Road A, to enable the expansion of telecommunication services on the latter route to be carried out more economically.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: No provision has been made in the Telecommunications Development Plan under 1955-60 Economic Programme to make any changes to the Jega-Yelwa overhead route.

Question—

\*O.273. Mr L. L. Lakunle asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state the volume of work in postal units recorded in each of the following postal agencies in Oyo North Constituency; Iseyin, Okeho, Shaki, Ago-Are, Igboho, Shepeteri, Kishi and Igbetti, in the periods 1955-56 and 1956-57 respectively.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: I would like to appeal to the hon. Member for Oyo North that he be allowed to have the answer to this question in the Hansard. It contains a lot of statistics which might be intelligible when read.

The information asked for is as follows :—

OYO NORTH CONSTITUENCY  
POSTAL AGENCY STATISTICS

Agency	Units for	
	31st Decem- ber, 1955	31st Decem- ber, 1956
Iseyin ..	7,476	8,900
Okeho ..	3,396	4,616
Shaki ..	12,438	14,635
Ago-Are ..	3,610	4,840
Igboho ..	1,299	2,414
Shepeteri ..	1,308	2,423
Kishi ..	1,501	3,151
Igbetti ..	2,050	3,202

Question—

\*O.281. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider establishing post office savings bank in Isanlu and Egbe in Kabba Division respectively in view of the public demand for this facility.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The standards for the provision of Savings Bank facilities at Postal Agencies are given in Paragraph 11 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. If it is considered that these conditions exist at Isanlu and Egbe, application should be made to the Territorial Controller, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Ibadan.

Question—

\*O.282. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will state the turnover of each of the postal agencies in Kabba Division in 1954 and 1956.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The answer to this question falls into the same category as the answer to Question O.273.

The value of postal business performed by a Postal Agency is assessed on a unit basis which is detailed in paragraph 18 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. The units of business transacted at Postal Agencies in Kabba Division in 1954 and 1956 are as follows :—

Agency	1954	1956
Egbe.. ..	8,498	10,497
Odo-eri ..	746	2,358
Isanlu ..	6,251	7,613
Mopa ..	8,073	10,261
Ejuku ..	Opened 1st May, 1956	
Ekinrin ..	4,154	5,831
Ayere ..	2,168	3,798
Aiyetoro ..	2,525	4,220
Aiyegunle ..	Opened 23rd July, 1955	
Agbaja ..	1,010	2,110

Question—

\*O.283. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation :—

If he will consider reopening the Postal Agency at Isanlu and Odo Eri in Kabba Division; and if he will give reasons why it was originally closed?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Isanlu Postal Agency was closed temporarily on 20th February, 1957, due to the resignation of the Postal Agent and the inability of the local community to select another Agent at that time. The local community are endeavouring to select another Agent and the Agency will be re-opened as soon as a suitable person can be found to conduct the Agency business.

Odo Eri Postal Agency was temporarily closed on 15th January, 1957, as a result of a cash shortage discovered in the imprest. The Agent had no explanation to offer for the deficiency which was later made good. The

community have been advised to select another Agent in order that the Agency may be re-opened as soon as possible.

Question—

\*O.284. Mr P. Deem Kpummm asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

Now that he is aware of the importance of telecommunication facilities between Makurdi and Gboko and of the pressing need for telephone services between Gboko and Mkar Hospital and the Benue Provincial Leper Settlement, if he will give a definite date for the provision of the facilities there?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation:

The provision of telephone services at Gboko has not been included in the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme but Gboko will shortly be provided with radio equipment to transmit and receive telegrams *via* Makurdi.

Supplementary to Question O.284—

Mr P. Deem Kpummm : Have you forgotten the promise you made in 1954 that telegraphs would be installed from Makurdi to Gboko?

Question—

\*O.287. Mr D. L. G. Olateju asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will state when Post Offices will be established in the areas within the jurisdiction of the Oke-Olin and Ifelodun District Councils, in view of the importance of these Councils in Oshun Division?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Oke-Olin cannot be identified as a District Council area. If Odo-Otin is meant, there are in that District two Postal Agencies, Inisha Town transacting 20,115 units of business and Okuku transacting 7,913 units of business respectively. Neither office qualifies for conversion to Departmental status on the standards given in paragraph 16 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. There is a Departmental Post Office at Ikirun which is 5 miles from Inisha Town and 9 miles from Okuku.

In the case of Ifelodun District there are four Postal Agencies as follows:—

Ire .. .. .	9,084 units of Business
Oton .. .. .	6,493 units of Business
Irese .. .. .	3,432 units of Business
Igbajo .. .. .	7,393 units of Business

None of these approach the standards given in paragraph 16 of Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

Supplementary to Question O.287—

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): What about Otaiyegbaju?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: Ask Research and Information!

Question—

\*O.288. Mr D. L. G. Olateju asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

When telephone facilities will be extended to Igbajo for the use of Kiriji College and the many transporters there.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: No provision has been made in the Telecommunications Development Plan under the 1955-60 Economic Programme for extending the telephone services to Igbajo.

2. I can assure the hon. Member that the requirements of Igbajo will be borne in mind and will be given due consideration when future development plans are being drawn up.

Question—

O.289. M. Usman A. Ahmed asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation:—

If he will state a specific date when Abaji Town in Koton Karifi District with a population of 6,000 and a distance of 58 miles from the nearest post office will be granted a postal agency.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation: The Department is anxious to develop the Postal Agency system as one means of opening up rural areas. On the information given, there appears to be justification for an Agency at Abaji Town and application should be made to the Territorial Controller, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Kaduna.

I must once again repeat that the establishment of Postal Agencies can be considerably accelerated by application to the Department's

Territorial Controllers at Enugu, Ibadan, and Kaduna, the Area Controller, Buca, Southern Cameroons, or the Postal Controller, Lagos Area, as may be appropriate.

Question—

\*O.260. Mr L. S. Funka asked the Minister of Research and Information:—

If he has plans to conduct research into the fertiliser requirement of the soils of Bamenda Highlands, indicating where in the area research activities would be based; and how soon.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information (Mr O. Bademosi): This matter will be given consideration. At present it is considered that the small Agricultural Research Staff available are more profitably employed in conducting investigations into the control of diseases.

Question—

\*O.261. Mr L. S. Fonka asked the Minister of Research and Information:—

If he will consider taking over the now closed Bambui Agricultural Station for the purpose of establishing a unit of the Federal Research Department to investigate the agricultural problems of the Bamenda Highlands, which part of the Federation has problems to itself.

Answer—

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information: Bambui Agricultural Station is not closed, but research activities in that station are restricted until the staff position improves.

Question—

O.293. Mr J. G. Adeniran asked the Minister of Research and Information, whether the Plant Breeder and Plant Pathologist have arrived to undertake joint research into the problem of mosaic disease which impeded the programme of improvement of the cassava crop?

Answer—

Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information: The Plant Breeder and the Plant Pathologist recruited to undertake research into the mosaic disease which attacked the cassava crop have arrived, and have been working at Moor Plantation, Ibadan for the past 2 years.

Question—

O.294. Mr J. G. Adeniran: To ask the Minister of Research and Information what was the progress made in determining the fertiliser requirements of maize and yam?

Answer—

Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information: It is difficult to give a short answer to this question, as the fertiliser requirements for yams and maize vary according to climate, soil and cropping systems, etc.

Broadly speaking the position regarding yams is as follows:

*Eastern Region:* Results from experiments have shown a response to Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash. Experiments are now under way to find an economic method of distributing the fertiliser to the farmers.

*Western Region:* Responses to fertiliser have been shown especially in the Savannah Region. A campaign is now under way for the distribution of fertiliser to the farmer in this area.

*Northern Region:* Responses of yam to fertilisers is not yet fully known. It is likely that the response in the Southern parts will be the same as for the Savannah area of the Western Region.

The fertiliser requirements for maize are even more variable and I will arrange, with your permission Sir, to inform Mr Adeniran of the requirements in writing.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Dr K. O. Mbadieye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a brief Statement on the opening of the new air terminal at Kano on May 4th. I know that Members are aware of the date and that His Excellency and I will be performing the opening ceremony.

A number of Members of the House have asked me whether it would be possible for them to receive invitations and, subject to the necessary forms being made available, which I hope will be the case within the next few days, I hope in addition to the Kano Members of both the Federal and Regional Houses, that it will be possible to invite twenty Members of this House to attend the opening ceremony.

I propose that these Members should be divided as follows:— NPC 7, having regard

to the fact that Members of Kano will also be invited. Her Majesty's Opposition 4. KNC 2.

It would be a matter of great convenience to my Ministry if Party Leaders could select names and let me have them before Members leave Lagos for their Constituencies.

I am of course, in addition, issuing invitations to the Regional Prime Ministers by name, and also to Her Majesty's Leader of the Opposition, by name, and I am hoping, subject to funds being available that I will make certain special transport facilities available to the Prime Ministers of the three Regions.

There is one point I must make since it will affect those Members of the House who will, I hope, be attending the opening ceremony, and that is the question of accommodation in Kano. The question of accommodation is an acute one, though I hope I shall be able to provide the necessary funds for them to travel to and from Kano, either by air or by car, and to provide up to six days subsistence allowance, I shall be unable to make arrangements for accommodation in Kano. I am afraid there is virtually no likelihood at all for people to obtain accommodation either at the Kano Central Hotel or the Kano Airport Hotel. However, I hope that Members will be able to make arrangements with their friends, and that this will not deter them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to thank you for this opportunity of making this Statement to the House.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): By way of explanation, the Minister is I am sure, establishing a precedent, and I am interested in that the Minister invited NPC representatives as a Party, and NCNC as a party, but then he is inviting the Opposition. Why is there not uniformity in that case? If you are inviting supporters of the Government on one side and the Opposition on the other I can understand, but if you are inviting NCNC and NPC, and you merely say Opposition, no Member of the Action Group will attend.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation**: Mr Speaker, I do not want this to be controversial. I will give Action Group 4. I thought that they had taken that title of Her Majesty's Opposition, as being the name by which they wished to be known, but if they want me to put Action Group—Action Group 4. UNIP—one. (Loud Laughter.)

**D. L. G. Olateju** (Oshun North): Well I hear the name of all the Parties mentioned about the question of going to Kano for the opening of the Air-Terminal, but I do not hear the name of my Party—Nigerian Commoners' Liberal Party.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Dr E. A. Awduche** (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, it will no longer be news that while I sat in my former seat early in this Session, or indeed in this House, since the inception of the new Constitution which is still in operation, I was never entirely happy with my surroundings. As I said here to-day, I am a staunch and active member of the Action Group of Nigeria. Sir, in exercising this right of political association, I am guided by the principle that political associations are matters of purely personal conviction emanating from within and never directed by exogenous or extraneous factors from outside. From this side of the House Sir, I hope to contribute my utmost to preserve, not only the dignity of this House, but the unity of Nigeria as a whole.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

## THE EDUCATION (LAGOS) BILL—COMMITTEE

## House in Committee.

## Clause 5.

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, I only wish to ask a question about the word *may* in this clause. It is the experience in the Western Region that the Local Government Council acts as the Local Education Authority. But in this case of Lagos, it is stated that "the Minister may"—I do not know whether this word "may" is necessary or not, but if the Minister would by order establish the Lagos Town Council to be the local education committee, it would have been fairer, Sir. But in this case now I would like the Minister to assure this hon. House that the Lagos Town Council will be the local education authority for the Lagos Federal Territory.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

**The Chairman**: Chief Onyia, I know, had an amendment on the Paper, but it was out of order because it had no consequential amendment put down.

Question proposed.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Chairman, as I said before, I would like the Minister to explain whether this terminology, Local Education Committee, as provided in this Bill, will not conflict with the same term used in the Lagos Local Government Law.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos East): I just want to support Chief Onyia, because the Local Education Committee would thereafter be referred to purely as the Local Education Committee. They will use the word local, so that it is likely to confuse with the education committee of the Lagos Town Council itself. The Advisory Board of Education should have been preferred to this Local Education Committee.

**Mr P. H. Okolo** (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, I just want to speak on the lines of the last speaker. The Lagos Local Government Law, 1953, provided for the establishment of an education committee within the Council. The decisions and recommendations of this education committee of the council will be subject to ratification by the council itself. Now, the body now that is being set up under section 8 (1) seems to be a new body and entirely outside the orbit of the Lagos Town Council, as it is provided there that it has to advise the Minister. Therefore it is an entirely different body from that committee of the council and I think if you look at the Schedule—we have not reached there yet—the Committee consists of sixty members drawn from various representatives of the teachers of the voluntary agencies and the Lagos Town Council itself.

So I am in agreement with the last speaker that to differentiate this committee from the committee of the Council it should be designated Lagos Advisory Education Board, instead of calling it local education committee. If this is done it will be in keeping with the education laws of the Regions which I think is more progressive in this respect.

Mr Chairman, that is the point I want to raise.

**The Minister of Social Services** (Mr Aja Nwachuku): In answering the point raised by Chief Onyia I refer to Section 64, paragraph 2. The question of juggling with nomenclature, whether it should be called local education committee or advisory committee, does not arise.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): On this particular point a Member from my left raised one important point last week. I do not

know precisely how the point should be met, but I would commend it to the consideration of the Minister. The Northern communities in Lagos complain that they have been left out of all this set up. It is true that provision has been made for three representatives from the Moslem proprietors of schools, but I doubt seriously whether the bulk of the Hausa communities in Lagos would even come within that category. In view of the peculiar circumstances of the case which we often listen to, is it not proper for the Minister to make some arrangement whereby the Northern elements in Lagos could be represented on this committee? It will make for a lot of understanding if provision could be made and if there are any difficulties peculiar to the Northern people in Lagos their representative would be the best medium through which these difficulties could be brought before the committee.

So I would appeal to the Minister either to insert a provision—I refer to the schedule to which this has made reference—whereby he can nominate say one or two himself, that is giving the Minister the power, or giving the council the power, to nominate two people. There may not be specific reference to the North in it, but it would be understood clearly that the two people to be nominated would be representatives of the Northern elements community around Lagos.

**The Minister of Social Services**: Mr Chairman, this allegation is not altogether true.

**Chief Akintola**: It is not an allegation; it is merely a suggestion.

**The Minister of Social Services**: Well, the suggestion will always receive my sympathetic consideration, but already under paragraph (f), page 22, you will see that we have three members nominated by the Council of Moslem school proprietors.

**Chief Akintola**: I must make myself clear to the hon. Minister. They will be representatives of Moslem proprietors of schools, but there are very few proprietors of schools and it is almost certain that these proprietors of schools would not contain any representative Northerner at all. That is why I am saying that that particular provision would not meet the request already made by a spokesman of the Northern community. Could an insertion not be made, whereby the Minister may be given power to nominate two people, or if you like you may delegate that power to the Lagos

Town Council on the understanding that these two people would be representatives of the Northern community in Lagos?

**The Minister of Social Services:** The suggestion is noted, Sir.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Clauses 9 to 11 agreed to.*

*Clause 12.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Chairman, I ask that the word Crown should be deleted from Clause 12, subsection 2, and Federal Government substituted. We do know that we shall have our independence in 1959 and there will be need to change certain names as Crown and all these things to Federal Government. So, if we anticipate that, we should not go on perpetuating a name that is going to be altered.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I am respectfully opposing that amendment. Whether now, or in the future, as we have all fully understood, the Crown in relation to Nigeria will bear a different interpretation altogether. The Crown will remain the symbol of the Unity of the Commonwealth, of which Nigeria will be a part.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation** (Mr E. Unsworth): Mr Chairman, I just want to expand from the legal point of view on the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition. The word "Crown" in relation to land, has a very definite legal meaning, and it is used not only in this Ordinance but in numerous other Ordinances, such as the "Crown Land Ordinance".

The question on self-government, would be a matter which would be considered but I think I am right in saying that, in most Dominions, the word "Crown" is still retained. It means the Crown in her right of the particular country concerned.

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

*Clauses 12 and 13 agreed to.*

*Clause 14.*

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to know, if a child who comes from the Regions who lives with a guardian, who is not his father or mother, would be allowed to register in the proposed primary school?

**The Minister of Social Services** (The hon. Aja Nwachuku): What the hon. Member wants to know is embodied under Definitions.

*Clause 14 agreed to.*

*Clauses 15, 16 and 17 agreed to.*

*Clause 18.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Speaker, I rise to move in Clause 18, page 8, line 19, after "education" to insert "equivalent to Lagos Primary Education School Standard". The Clause means that, in the opinion of the Authority, any child who has completed his primary education in any of the Regions, may be accepted after having completed his primary education, even if he is six, to have further education in Lagos Territory. I asked that this should be added, because in some Regions certain children do not get up to the standard that is provided in Lagos Territory. Some have only six year primary education course, (*One hon. Member: Where?*) in the Western Region, and sometimes the children leave this school before they have had the equivalent of the Standard Six or, what would be the equivalent to what you are providing here. The parents coming to Lagos like their child to continue in this place, to finish his education. In the Western Region, it has been realised that the primary education standard provided, is not sufficient to bring the child to the standard required. (*Interruption*). So that now they allow modern secondary school to provide more education for the children. By the time they are complete, after having finished two or three years, they come to the equivalent of Standard Six. What I do say is that the provision made here is far higher, 8 year course, is far higher than what you have in some Regions and some parents may like, when they get here, to allow such children who have not got the same facilities, to receive further the education here.

*Question proposed, That those words be there added.*

**Minister of Social Services:** Mr Chairman, I decline to accept this Amendment in this wise: that there is no uniform standard throughout Nigeria and if a child has completed his primary education elsewhere, he is not to be admitted to a primary school in Lagos. Otherwise, Lagos may be flooded with children from other parts of Nigeria, merely because their own standards are lower. The Regions, if their standards are lower, should raise their standards.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): Is the Minister rejecting the Amendment proposed by Chief Onyia? Why? Onyia is a Chief and he is an old schoolmaster who knows what he is talking about. We must have respect for his age if nothing else!

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): If the Minister is not prepared to accept my Amendment, I wouldn't mind. I do know that that problem is bound to crop up in this country. I know that what I am saying now is too true. I know parents who are sending their children, after finishing Standard Six, after completing their primary education, parents in some Regions are sending them to where they will continue and it is happening to-day in the country. Such children may come to Lagos and then they are prevented, because they will be told that they have completed their primary schools in the Regions. It will be bringing some distress to the parents. So if the Minister cannot see with me now, I do not mind, but I know that eventually he will hear what is going to happen.

I withdraw in that case.

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

*Clause 18 agreed to.*

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot-Ekpene): Mr Chairman, Sir, in planning for (*Interruption*) (*Order, order*). Free primary education, it is important that the planning authorities should benefit by the experience of those who have begun already. In arranging for the admission of the children into our free primary schools in Lagos, one important problem will arise. It is the problem of parents coming and transferring to Lagos after registration has been closed. They are sure to come with their children. On their arrival they are told that the children were not registered and so they cannot be admitted. Some, on the other hand, may leave shortly after registration and find consolation elsewhere. I would like the Minister, on this occasion, to inform this House, what arrangements he will make to ensure that the children of parents coming into Lagos after registration has been closed, will be admitted into Lagos schools. Otherwise, what arrangements have been made for them?

**Minister of Social Services:** Such children will always find admission when their parents come to Lagos on transfer.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): The Minister has not thrown any light on this subject. When registration has closed how do they get admission?

**Minister of Social Services:** They will get admission if they come to Lagos and if there is any vacancy in any school, they will be admitted. If a child brings along with him or her, a school leaving certificate, it will be accepted. Provision can be made for them to be admitted in any of the schools in Lagos.

**Mr C. O. Komolafe** (Ilesha): Mr Chairman, there is no need to belabour the point; what obtains in the Regions should obtain in Lagos. If a child resides in one particular place, he must attend school in that particular place for at least one year and if the parent is transferred to Lagos, definitely the child has to ask for a transfer certificate and that is what obtains in the Western Region. (*One hon. Member: It is not in the law.*)

The fact that it is not in the law does not make any difference because we are teachers who operate this law and we know what it is. You are just worrying the Minister and it is no use belabouring the point.

*Clause 18 agreed to.*

*Clause 19.*

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot-Ekpene): Mr Chairman, under clause 19 parents are in duty bound to see that their children attend school regularly. In Lagos, we know there is the land problem and some of the schools may be built very far away from the easy reach of young children of the ages of five, six, seven and eight. As a result, some of them may find difficulty in attending school regularly. Some may have difficulty in boarding buses in time to go to school. I think, Mr Chairman, the commitment here for parents is rather very rigid. Will the Minister undertake that he would do everything in his power to see that these schools are evenly distributed and ensure that children attend schools at the nearest schools in Lagos?

**The Minister of Social Services** (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Children are always made to attend school near where their parents live and adequate provision has been made for that. There will be no pupil who will have admission in a school far way from where he resides. We have provided that no child, especially



the very young, should have to go to school very far from his residence.

Clause 19 agreed to.

Clause 20.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Sub-section 2, Sir, the last phrase. The subsection says—"For the purpose of this section the expression "fees" shall include any payment for tuition, books, uniforms, boarding or any other service." Now, would the Minister kindly explain what he has in mind for "any other service"?

**The Minister of Social Services:** This is written in simple English, Mr Chairman, and I don't think it needs any explanation.

**Chief Solaru:** Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope the Minister will treat us with some respect. What is "any other service"? It is not put there for decoration.

**The Minister of Social Services:** "Any other service" includes sports, games and such other things as the proprietor or the manager may wish school children to contribute to.

**Chief Solaru:** Exactly, Sir; games, sports and such like. It means that if they want to buy a tennis ball they must come to you. It means that every little thing, even when they want to buy their school meals, they must come to you for permission. It would be a very elastic thing. You'd better define them very closely.

**The Minister of Social Services:** It is not likely that they will come to me. I can delegate the powers to some other person to authorise, and it doesn't cost the proprietor or the manager anything to send a letter to say he wants such and such contribution to be raised.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West):** I think this is very vital. The Minister is establishing a school where people must learn how to be free. If we have to fetter them up to the word "go", when do they taste the fruit of liberty? If they want to buy a small tennis ball they have to come with their hands at their back, bow low to please the Minister or somebody to whom he delegates his power. I think this is a bad precedent and that ought to be taken out. Give the school managers or proprietors some latitude to be able to exercise their own discretion without having

to seek the favour of the Minister or somebody to whom he delegates his power.

**Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to say that what the Leader of the Opposition has just said is absolutely wrong. To give any little chance to any proprietor to collect any money from children for any purpose without first getting the permission of the Minister is wrong. It will make the proprietors to go on taxing these children and then free education becomes no longer free.

He is talking about freedom to people; we are talking about people going to school without paying any fees. The Government will pay. That does not mean denying them freedom. You want freedom to be given to the proprietors to begin to collect money from these children to say that they are going to pay this and pay that? I think, Mr Chairman, the law as it has been put down here is absolutely correct.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Mr Chairman, I rise also to underline what the last speaker has said. We who have practical experience in schools do know how certain managers and proprietors in schools take advantage of such collections to cheat not only the children but also the parents by undue collections. So this provision is correct.

Clause 20 agreed to.

Clause 21.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba):** Clause 21, Mr Chairman, refers to the authority of the Minister with regard to payments of any nature. When a school is to be free, I think it should be free in all shades of it. I am of the opinion that this House owes a lot of gratitude to the Minister and to the Ministry for putting this here, because teachers are very inventive and they are very clever people. They might have some other crafty way of inventing some sort of collections and what I want to say is that the Minister should ensure the machinery by which this could be implemented because there is some likelihood of some parents who might be the complainants to be victimised.

There must be some machinery by which anybody who is offended might come straight either to the priest or to some specified authority to report the matter and to ensure that that child is not sent away from school or punished otherwise, for there might be something like baptismal fees, class fees and all the

rest of it. So that when any money is to be collected, let it be specifically known that this money is authorised to be collected, otherwise this free education might be subject to some sort of practices that might be derogatory to the spirit of the law.

I congratulate the Minister and I want him to see to it that this law is implemented and that anybody who contravenes it will surely be fined £50 or sent to imprisonment for six months or both.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Mr Chairman, I think the last speaker made some rather unfortunate remarks about teachers and I am certain that teachers have changed. Mr Abii himself and hon. Onyia have changed. They don't do such things any more.

**Mr G. O. Komolafe (Ilesha):** I wish to register a very stout protest on behalf of teachers who are very well known for their honesty and integrity.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, I want it to be clearly understood that in trying to examine this clause and see that they really mean what they say, and the meaning is quite clear, no offence is meant either to the proprietors or the teachers. As a matter of fact, one ought to understand the handicap of those proprietors in the past who had to build their own schools, and pay teachers out of their own pocket. It is in that respect that they charge all sorts of fees, harvest fees, and so on.

Now Government is going to take over, and all we are trying to see is that provision has been made to cover all expenses and people paying out of their own pocket, even if the children are not paying, therefore nobody should subject them to extra tax. Therefore, it should not be allowed to apply any unfair questions to any proprietor whatsoever. I protest against the word "cheating" that some hon. Member used this morning.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene):** Mr Chairman, the remarks made by the speaker on the other side of the House are understood, and we the teachers on the Floor of this House feel that he did not weigh his words very well, otherwise he would not have used them. We could ask him to withdraw as we think that he should know what to say on the Floor of this honourable House.

This clause, Sir, is very important and I think the safest thing to do is to say that such collections should not take place in our primary schools. If that is underlined in bold characters I think the School Managers, who may be Church Authorities themselves, will know exactly whom to appeal to for their collections—ordinarily the teachers might not like to take collections anyway. But if a child is asked to bring harvest dues, or Easter dues and so on to the school, it may be interpreted that it is for the church and not for the school. We do not want any collections of any kind to take place in the schools. When a child attends Sunday School, well anything you like can be collected but not in our schools.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** I am sorry if I am asking a question on the Education Committee. I do not know how the Minister resolves the difference between the Education Committee and the Local Education Committee, which is a committee of the Local Education Authority. How does he differentiate between them?

**The Minister of Social Services (The hon. Aja Nwachuku):** Mr Chairman, this Committee will not compete with the Local Education Committee.

**Chief Solaru:** The name, Sir, I am talking of the name?

**The Minister of Social Services:** What has the name got to do with it?

**Chief Solaru:** Mr Chairman, if I might help the Minister further. This Education Committee here seems to be taking the place of an Education Board, if I am wrong please correct me. If it is doing the work of a Board then why don't you call it a Board, why do you call it an Education Committee which might conflict in terminology with a committee of a local government body.

**The Chairman:** Well, we have settled that under Clause 8, and I don't think we can go back now.

Clause 23 agreed to.

Clause 24.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 24 subsection (b) says: "the name of the school is not suitable". If we allow the

committee to determine the unsuitability of names, it may be that any name might be considered objectionable unless we specify those names here. It may be that a certain group of people may be prejudiced if a school were to be named after Chief Akintola, to perpetuate his memory for the good he has done in Lagos.

**An hon Member :** He is not dead yet !

**Chief Onyia :** Well, he may be and it may be that a group of people may feel the same way if a school were established in the Federal Territory of Lagos and named after Chief Awolowo for the things that he has done. Some people may be unfavourably influenced by the name of the school, if they considered it to be obnoxious, so I feel if at all we want that clause to remain, we should specify the names.

Though I am not a lawyer, one can see in the companies Ordinance that certain names are specified that should not be used. It says, that except with the consent of the Governor-General in Council, no Company shall be registered by a name which (a) includes the name "Imperial," "Royal," "Windsor."

**The Chairman :** I really think the hon. Member is taking his arguments a little wide.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** On a point of Order, Sir, can a layman cite the law. . . (Laughter) . . . without getting the permission of the Attorney-General ?

**Chief Onyia :** What I want to say, in a nut shell, Mr Chairman, is that the names that are objectionable should be specified, instead of leaving this clause so wide.

**M. Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin) :** Well, Mr Chairman, I do not think this particular clause needs to be dragged out. It is clearly stated that if the name is unsuitable it is the duty of the committee to indicate that. I think the people who will serve on that committee will be wise enough to know whether a name is suitable or not.

**The Minister of Social Services (The hon. Aja Nwachuku) :** What the hon. Chief Onyia has said, is an exact antithesis of what this paragraph means. I would not be prejudiced against an "Akintola College" but I would object to a primary school being called a University, or a primary school being called "Akintola College"—that is what it means.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** Sir, I seek your protection. I always associate a

memorial to a dead person, and by the grace of God, I think I am a little far from the grave as yet. (Laughter).

Clause 24 agreed to.

Clauses 25 and 26 agreed to.

Clause 27.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East) :** Mr Chairman, when we were discussing the expenses incurred by the Government in connection with the building of Primary Schools, it was given out by the Minister of Information that it was because they had to comply with the building regulations of the Lagos Town Council that the schools were so expensive. I think, Sir, that the Minister of Information should consider this section again because it looks as if the Minister is inviting this House to give him power to waive the building regulations.

I just cannot understand it. In one breath they were saying that they were bound to comply with the high standard required by the Regulation to build very expensive schools. They want us now to waive the Regulation and to bring the standard down as low as possible. I hope this will not bring about the building of ramshackle buildings that the Minister of Information has in mind.

**The Minister of Social Services :** Mr Chairman, it will not lead me to what the hon. Gentleman has described as ramshackle. Our buildings, if he has had time to inspect some of them or to visit some of the sites, he would have agreed with me that the building is first-class in the whole of West Africa and I would not go back from good to worse because it will be a very poor improvement. In fact buildings have been well specified and the whole thing has been going on well. There is no reason for us to come down to building what he calls ramshackle. We are taking great care to see that we avoid makeshifts which have been the buildings in the West.

**Mr M. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) :** Would the Minister explain then why he wants some relaxation or modification of the building regulations if he is sure that his buildings are of standard ? What is the need for this section ?

Clause 27 put and agreed to.

Clause 28.

**Mr Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, the order for the closure of a school is a very serious matter and I should have liked that the education authority would be the authority to issue the order so that there can be a right of appeal to the Minister. You cannot just with a signature like that destroy what perhaps somebody had been doing all his life without having any right of appeal. I feel that it should not be the Minister who should make the order himself. Somebody else should make it in the first instance and then there should be a right of appeal to the Minister.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano Urban Area) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, it may be it is very likely that the first judge who has recommended that the school should be closed could be prejudiced against the school manager or proprietor. In that respect, if the school manager or proprietor has any right of appeal then he will be able to lodge the appeal to the Minister who is the next man after whichever man that may be appointed. So if the Minister could think of having somebody in between him and the proprietor, it would be a world of good.

**Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, this is very important and I do hope that the Minister will think it fit to give some assurance. I think the suggestion made is even compatible with the dignity of his office : he does not interfere in the first instance. He is the big boss on top to whom all appeals would go, and I think this point is very important and I would like the Minister to give us an assurance that the Law would be changed so that he would be the final court of appeal in the matter.

**The Minister of Social Services (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, if the suggestion is that we should have a body that will act as buffer, the Local Education Authority is there.

**Mr Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not a question of somebody acting as a buffer. That is not it at all. But you will have seen a case where a person has been building up a school for 25 years ; if somebody were prejudiced in one way or the other and recommends the making of an order and the order is made and it is finally closed without a right of appeal, it is a wicked thing to do and it may be a wrong completely because the man

may not have done anything for which the school should have been closed down. There should be a right of appeal in this matter.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, there is one small point I would make on this and that is, of course, that the Minister can only close a school on the grounds set out in section 30, and if of course he acted on wrong grounds or on other grounds, of course there would be an appeal in those circumstances : you could appeal to the court by means of a writ of certiorari. I am not saying that to satisfy the House but I am saying that there is some protection in that event in the law.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano Urban Area) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, we are talking about schools and as far as schools are concerned I think things concerning schools should best be considered by those people who are authorities on such matters. And for that matter, it would be much better for somebody who is in the know of things in the Education Department to be appealed to. We do not want to go to court as a matter of fact and it would be a good idea if the Minister could consider somebody.

**Mr Fani-Kayode (Ife) :** We agree entirely with the statement made by the Attorney-General, but the protection received from the court may be rather expensive and it might be slow as well. So we suggest that if the body set up or the Education Authority be given permission to be the first to make an order and then the person aggrieved can make an application or appeal to the Minister, in that case the Minister can look not only into the facts that the reason for the closure is within the limits of the law, but can also look into the merits of the decision which the court cannot look into. The court can only look into the facts whether the facts stated are within the ambit of the law.

**The Minister of Social Services :** Well, this will be based in the light of experience, Mr Chairman. The Education Committee will first of all consider the question of the closure of schools and make recommendations to the Minister. The recommendation will go to the Minister. It does not mean that the Education Committee will have the final say.

**Mr Ayo Rosiji (Egba East) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know if I have read this particular clause upside-down, but it seems that the action originates from the Minister himself. Clause

28 says, "The Minister may require the Education Committee to consider and to make a recommendation as to whether any school should be closed upon any of the grounds specified in section 30".

The action originates from the Minister himself. If the Minister asks the Committee to make recommendation, he is suggesting to them that the school is unfit and should be closed down. He is the one doing it; then the Committee makes the recommendation to him and he makes the order that the school should be closed down. The Committee should of its own originate action if it considers that a school should be closed down. If it does it and it makes the order, then the proprietor should have the right of appeal to the Minister.

**Mr J. A. Akande (Egba North):** Sir, the Minister can receive reports from certain quarters and he will cause the Committee to look into it. If the report is favourable, there is no need for the Minister to close the school.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ifc):** Mr Chairman, Sir, if one of the Members on our Benches will direct the Minister to clause 30 (i), I think that is an answer to the problem.

**The Chairman:** I ask Members to make their remarks a little more audible. It looks like a conversation going on rather than a debate.

**Mr Fani-Kayode:** "The Education Committee has served notice in writing on such proprietor, informing him of the defect complained of; and (ii) on further inspection, after a period of not less than six months from the date of such notice, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Committee that such defect has not been remedied."

In that case the Education Committee might be taken to court in the first instance and then the Minister may be a court of appeal.

*Clause 28 agreed to.*

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

*Clauses 29-35 agreed to.*

*Clause 36.*

**Chief V. Duro Phillips (Ijebu West):** Clause 36 (1) reads: "The Authority may

refuse permission for any person to be appointed or to continue as a proprietor or manager of a school if—(a) he has been convicted of a criminal offence, or....." I venture to ask the hon. Minister what happens if a would-be proprietor were convicted of common assault and he were fined £5? Would you deprive him of his appointment as a school proprietor?

**The Minister of Social Services (Hon. Aja Nwachuku):** This would be discretionary. Some offences are graver than others and it would depend upon the nature of the offence committed.

**Chief V. Duro Phillips:** That is the very reason why I would suggest that clause 36, sub-clause (1) (a) should be further elucidated. The term "criminal offence" is used in general terms here; it includes all forms of criminal offences as could be found by a criminal court. The question of the exercise of discretion as to which offences are of a grave or less grave nature, I think, should be legislated for and not just be left to generalization by the Education Committee.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. Unsworth):** Mr Chairman, it is a little difficult, I think, to define, in a clause of this description, the specific types of offences, because an offence might be committed which, although not very serious, might nevertheless make a person unsuitable to be the proprietor or manager of a school. I think, in those circumstances, it is difficult to do anything other than leave it to the discretion of the Authority. I have no doubt that, if the Authority does make decisions considered unsatisfactory, there would be a great deal of comment.

*Clause 36 agreed to.*

*Clause 37 agreed to.*

*Clause 38.*

**Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North):** Mr Chairman, this clause reads as follows: "(1) Every board of management or board of governors shall prepare a written constitution defining its functions, the times and places of meetings, its composition, procedure and the duties of its secretary, the keeping and auditing of accounts, the appointment and dismissal of staff and such other matters as shall be deemed necessary for the good governance of the school or schools."

What I would like to point out to the Minister is that, when the written constitution is being prepared, care should be taken to see that the board of governors does not take up unnecessary powers, because in the appointment and dismissal of staff certain boards try to play politics. I have my reasons for saying this: I remember something that happened in the Western Region; the written constitution in that particular school did not give the board authority to cancel the appointment of a member of the staff without reference to the Ministry.

**Chief V. Duro Phillips (Ijebu West):** Point of order, Mr Chairman. We are not talking about the Western Education Bill: we are talking, Sir, of the Lagos Education Bill.

**The Chairman:** It is no more than a fair comparison.

**An hon. Member:** Why are you afraid?

**Mr J. A. O. Akande:** As I was saying, Mr Chairman, this board of governors was composed of a certain class of people belonging to a different political party from the particular member of the staff they dismissed. What did he do? Because he won an election to this particular House, he was asked to leave his duty—two days after he was elected!—a man who had served for 14 years. The matter was referred to the Minister of Education in the Western Region—thank God that Minister has left them!; his authority was questioned and the matter was brought before the Governor in Council. The objection was that this particular man did nothing apart from being elected to this House.

That is why I say that we should learn a lesson from what is happening in the Regions. The Minister should look very carefully at this Clause to see whether it has any political implications: unless you do that you will get certain boards of governors, composed of a set of people belonging to a different political party, who because a member of the staff does not belong to their party, would dismiss him. That is the point I am making.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** In a case like this, Sir, I think the hon. Arogundade Akande has already indicated in what direction the remedy lies if anything like that happens.

The Minister of Social Services in Lagos is a Member of your Party and if anything happens like that in the Federal Scheme of Education,

the matter would be referred to the Minister of Social Services here and no doubt he would be able to take care of it.

**Chief Duro Phillips (Ijebu West):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the views expressed by hon. Mr Akande are misplaced. Section 38, subsection 1, provides the remedy for the very matter about which he has spoken. Section 38 subsection 1 said that every Board of Management shall prepare a written constitution which governs the appointment and dismissal of the staff, and so, Sir, I venture to suggest that the hon. Mr Akande did not read this particular section properly before he put forward his views.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North):** Mr Chairman, I am surprised that an hon. Member like Chief Duro Phillips would get up and say that. I have been connected with Secondary Schools for fourteen years, and I am therefore in a position to speak. In these circumstances, Mr Chairman, I was the person who gave the testimony when you were going to England. (Laughter).

**The Chairman:** There is quite a chorus of noisy interrupting. When I am on my feet hon. Members must maintain silence.

*Clause 38 agreed to.*

*Clauses 39-60 agreed to.*

*Clause 61.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Mr Chairman, I wish to underline what a Member has said in the House here in respect of the omission which properly should have come under this Clause, and that is about the condition of service of teachers. If I understand, Mr Chairman, the regulations of the Government mean the Act of Government identical with the Act of Government in respect of Education in England 1944. This I can understand, that under this Regulation the Government can make such necessary provision, so I would recommend that if it is not done now, that the Government may consider the advisability of inserting a Clause eventually similar to the Section 89 of the English Education Act of 1944 which provides for the Burham Committee to be adopted. If this is done eventually then the necessary provision and the safeguard required by teachers is made.

**Chief T. T. Solaru:** Mr Chairman, Sir, it is rather disturbing that when important points are raised in this House, such as the one raised by the last speaker, the Ministry is quiet about

it. Whether they are going to do anything about it, or whether they think we are merely talking hot air, I do not know.

This is a most important thing. When we start arguing, we will be preached to that our reward is in heaven. Here is a chance to do something, which we really ought to do, and you are being given good examples from the country which you are imitating. Why don't you say something about it? What are you going to do about inserting a provision for a committee such as the Burham Scale Committee here? What is being done about it? We just don't want to be greeted with stony silence.

**The Minister of Social Services:** The answer to this question has been given, Sir, when I said that a joint negotiating committee is being set up to go into the conditions of teachers. That was the answer I gave to this question when it was raised a few days ago.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Have we the assurance of the Minister that this will be eventually inserted under this Clause, so that it will come into law? What you told us is not inserted in the Bill at all, so that whether you are providing that machinery or not, does not appear in the law.

*Clause 61 agreed to.*

*Clauses 62-64 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the third time.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Speaker, while we congratulate the Minister for bringing in a Bill on education specially for Lagos and the Federal Territory, one cannot but say that he has a very difficult task. But that difficult task has been to a great extent lightened in that he has had the experience of a good many other Regions before him and, of course, the accumulated experience of educationists all over the world and the help of qualified education officials.

And that is the reason why we are somewhat distressed by the way in which the joints of the law, if the law has joints, are so rheumatic and so creaking. I know an answer has been given as to how this gout, or rheumatic pain, or lumbago that it suffers from is going to be treated. You remember, Sir, that when we

came to discuss the question of interposing the Chief Federal Adviser between the Ministry and the Local Education Authority to be created we had no satisfactory answer. We would expect, Sir, since this is a very important point, that at the earliest opportunity the Minister would bring in an amendment to this particular part of the Bill.

And secondly, Sir, the question of conditions of service for teachers, which is so unsatisfactory as it stands. We hope that the Minister will have second thoughts and that he will bring in an amendment to embody that same joint committee and its composition into the body of the law. There is nothing wrong in admitting that one has overlooked a point, or that one has made a mistake. And in fact, it is mainly so to do, and the only reason why we are here, the only reason why this has not gone out as an order in council merely to be notified to all of us, is that we jointly might contribute to its success. But if we are going to be treated as we have been treated over this Bill as if we were merely onlookers or busybodies who are meddling in affairs of which they know very little—because that is the impression I have had in the passage of this Bill; as a matter of fact a good many parts of it have passed because we felt we shall not have any answer—it is just silence all the time. If people who put forward the law cannot explain it properly, what is going to happen to the people who are going to execute it or people who are going to come under it?

We feel, Sir, that this Education Bill, laudable as it is in its intention, has not been properly got up, and a good many things have been left out, and I would like to say that people who are more concerned have not been consulted. If they had been consulted there would not have been all these leaks and creaks. I hope, Sir, that the Minister will take it in good part because it is our job to help him do his duty correctly.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene):** Mr Speaker, in supporting the Third Reading of this Bill I wish to associate myself with some of the sentiments expressed by the last speaker. I would not say that there are so many creaks and leaks in the Bill, I would say that the Bill is not quite complete.

If the Education Law of Lagos cannot show directly in its pages the working conditions of

the teachers to be employed in the schools to be opened under such a law, we cannot say it is complete. Besides, we are not told the grades of teachers to be employed in these schools, so we are going home with some doubts that perhaps Standard Four Boys in the Western Region might be drafted to teach in Lagos schools because they will be regarded as school-leavers as it obtains in that Region.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I would like to point out that the Education Law as it stands requires more schedules. We want to know the subjects to be taught, especially in our post-primary schools and even in the ordinary primary schools. Although we know religious instruction will be there, optional to the managers of the schools, we want to know the subjects that must be taught compulsorily in the schools. When these things come in the law will be complete and we will be satisfied.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation (Mr E. I. G. Unsworth):** Mr Speaker, there seems to be some doubt as to who is going to reply. The only point that I was going to make was that the Minister drew my attention to the fact that numerous points have been raised and it is a question of whether there should be an amendment to the Law, and he will certainly consider all the points that have been raised by the House.

*Question, That the Bill be now read the Third Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

#### THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (IMPORT DUTIES RELIEF) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. R. A. Njoku):** Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill now to be read a second time is an outcome of the Motion passed by this House at its meeting last August. That Bill welcomed the report of the committee appointed to advise the Federal Government on the stimulation of industrial development by relief from import duties, and invited the Federal Government to implement the report by legislation. The Bill empowers the Governor-General in Council to repay the whole or part of the duty charged on materials or capital equipment imported by Nigerian industry for its own use, or on components imported to be assembled into a finished product. It would also give

the responsible Minister authority, subject to the approval of the Governor-General in Council, to guarantee the continuance of such repayments for periods up to 10 years.

As Members will see, this is essentially an enabling Bill; it does not attempt to define rigidly the circumstances in which repayments will be made. The reasons for this are threefold. First, all the considerations which seem likely to govern repayments are set out in the White Paper which the House endorsed at its last meeting, and this White Paper necessarily must serve as the Government's guide in the matter. It is the Government's intention that the responsible Minister should report at least once a year to this House on the manner in which the Ordinance has been applied.

Secondly, as industrial development is a subject on the concurrent legislative list the Government would wish in applying the Ordinance to give as much weight as possible to the desires and opinions of the Regional Governments, subject always to this Government's responsibilities to this House. Finally, experience with the Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance has shown that if, when you set out to encourage industrial development, you try to define too precisely beforehand what you intend to do, you are liable to defeat your own purpose. Where as in this country industry is expanding rapidly, and much of the development is experimental, the machinery for promoting expansion must be as flexible as possible.

As the Governor-General told the House in his speech the Government is in the process of revising the Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance. That Ordinance prescribes in some detail the qualifications which an industry must have to make it eligible for assistance, and the procedure which applicants must adopt to secure it; the result in practice has been to exclude some deserving industries from the Ordinance's benefits, and to deprive eligible firms of them on purely technical grounds. In this Bill therefore, the Government's desire is to encourage efficiency, and it will insist that the enterprises which it helps should be properly planned, but its standard will be effectiveness, not merely orthodoxy.

It remains the intention of the Government, as indicated in the White Paper, that a committee should be set up to advise on whether

applications should be granted, but the constitution of the committee and the manner in which it should perform its function will best be determined in the light of experience. It may be desirable in the early stages to modify the arrangements several times, and, once again with an eye to flexibility, it seems best not to fix the constitution and functions of the committee by law.

Now, Sir, to the main provisions of the Bill. Under clause 3 the Governor-General in Council might authorise repayments of duty in circumstances described in the ensuing clauses. Such repayments might represent part of the duty paid, or the whole of it, and they might extend to all the materials imported by the firms concerned, or only to some of them. Such relief would not be confined to manufacturing industries only; any industry providing services of value to the economy of the country would be eligible. The Bill merely requires that in the opinion of the Governor-General the relief afforded should be in the country's economic interest. Obviously, a repayment of custom duty entails a loss of revenue, and the Governor-General in Council would have to consider whether such a loss would be offset by the advantages to the economy which a repayment would be likely to bring. On occasion the Government might gain in companies' tax, from the increased prosperity of the recipient firm, as much as it lost in duty, but this would not always be the case, and even where it was not, the Bill would not prohibit a repayment if the Governor-General in Council is satisfied that repayment should be made.

Under clause 4 the Governor-General in Council might sanction a repayment if without it the applicants could not sell their products at prices which would give them a market in competition with imported goods. Furthermore, there might be a situation in which a firm could sell a limited quantity of its products in competition with imported goods, but needed assistance if it was to expand, and its expansion would be in the country's interests. For instance, a firm might be able to sell a hundred umbrellas a year, at a given price, and make a profit: under these conditions it would be a sound little concern, but it would be supplying an insignificant proportion of the country's demand for umbrellas, and it would probably deserve assistance if it sought to expand

its activities; clause 4 of the Bill would enable it to be granted repayments of customs duty for that purpose.

Clause 5 of the Bill reflects in legal language the impossibility of equating exactly the rates of duty on imported finished articles and on the components imported to assemble the same article in Nigeria, where in the one case there is a flat rate duty and in the other duty is paid *ad valorem*. Let us say, for example that the duty on a sewing machine is £3 10s, while the duty on sewing machine parts is 5 per cent *ad valorem*: the machine, and the parts composing it, if it is assembled in this country, are subject to different types of duty, which cannot be accurately compared. The only solution, if a machine assembled in this country is to be on the same footing for purposes of customs duty as one already put together when it was imported, is to assess the difference in duty as nearly as possible, and this the solution adopted in the Bill.

Clause 6 of the Bill would empower the Governor-General in Council to approve repayments of duty on capital equipment, as distinct from materials to be converted into manufactured products, or components to be assembled. Under clause 7 the responsible Minister might guarantee the continuance of repayments for periods up to 10 years, whether the duty involved was on materials, components, or capital goods. I need hardly emphasize, Sir, how very greatly such a guarantee would enhance the value of a concession; indeed, without such a guarantee a concession to an enterprise on any substantial scale would be worth little: important industrial enterprises have to make their plans several years in advance, and a modest concession on which they can count over a period, is more attractive to them than a larger concession which may or may not be repeated. Members will observe from clause 8 at large, and from clause 10 (c), that the guarantees proposed would be *subject to appropriate conditions*, and that if the concessions granted were abused the Government could recover the amounts involved from the recipients.

I think, Sir, that the most significant provision of this Bill, as far as Federal Government policy on industrialisation is concerned, is clause 9. It puts beyond doubt who is to

bear any loss of revenue resulting from the implementation of this law. The White Paper on which this law is based laid it down very clearly that the relief with which it dealt should be provided at the expense of that Government which has overall responsibility for the industrial and general economic development of the country, namely the Federal Government. There could be no greater practical demonstration to my mind, Sir, of the determination of this Government to encourage the industrialisation of Nigeria as quickly and as economically as possible. The Bill is indeed a *new charter for industrialists* and I have very great pleasure in commending it to this House.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Attorney-General of the Federation**  
(Mr E. I. G. Unsworth): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr L. C. Daldry** (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, when the White Paper on this subject came before the House last year, I took a special interest in this subject and spoke at some length on it, and I expressed the hope that, when the enabling Ordinance was drawn, it would be flexible and in broad and general terms. All I want to say this morning is that from that point of view, this Bill comes up to my expectations. I want to congratulate the Minister and I have very great pleasure in supporting the Bill.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish especially to say that I congratulate the Minister on the Bill. In my humble opinion, Sir, it is a step in the right direction. In supporting it, Sir, I wish to make one observation and that is that I do not think it is absolutely correct to work out aid to industrial developments within this country on the basis of price of imported goods equal to price of home manufactured goods.

I think, Sir, that approach to the industrial development is not very correct. In my humble view, Sir, it is an approach that has very serious connection with the view adopted by industrial advisers in this country, that if you want to manufacture anything in this country, you have got to manufacture it at exactly the same scale as it is being manufactured in the United Kingdom or in Germany

or in America. I think, Sir, it is always better to start a thing on a modest scale and then see how far you can go.

But to say that an industrial establishment, starting in this country to-day would, from the word go, attain the same state of efficiency as one long-established in more industrially advanced countries in the world, Sir, I think is not a correct view. So, Sir, I feel that the time has come when we should abandon what economists traditionally refer to as "third rate policy." That is a policy that has been advocated at one time or the other by great industrial powers, at the time when it suited them best.

Towards the end of the 19th century, Sir, it was common in English industrial policy, English international trade policy, that you had a state, a free state, in which manufacturers everywhere could come to compete, knowing full well, Sir, that the home production was so efficient that everybody would have the chance to compete; they would stand at a disadvantage with the home manufactured goods.

America to-day, Sir, one of the very leading industrial powers in modern times, I am sure will welcome any policy like an international free trade. They have attained such a high degree of efficiency that it does not matter to them whatever Japan produces and brings to America. It still stands to reason, as far as they are concerned, that a *Chevrolet* car produced in America will still sell cheaper and would still be a better performing machine than a *Chevrolet* car produced in Japan. So that it doesn't really matter to them. But, Sir, it does matter to us in this country that we must as much as we can make preference for what we can produce within this country. It is not enough, Sir, if we merely see that the price of the goods manufactured in this country works out equally with that of imported goods.

I feel, Sir, that in making this duty adjustment, allowance ought to be made in cases when manufacturers could be given some very little advantage. As beginners, I say it again, it is not practicable that their products should be as well finished as those ones imported and it is not easily conceivable that their costs will be as low as the ones of those produced abroad. So that I feel, Sir, that nobody will grudge this country if we make provision enabling our home produced products to be put to the

market at some price or cost lower than that of the imported materials. And then, Sir, I feel that the aid provided for in this Bill lays very strong emphasis on applications and allowances by individual manufacturers.

I only wish to make an observation which the Government might consider. If every application has got to go to the Governor-General in Council, then, Sir, considering the average size of the Nigerian industry and also considering what little contribution the production of any particular establishment might make, I feel that the fact that these have got to go right up to the Governor-General in Council and the fact that the provisions aim at making individual allowances in individual cases, in the course of the administration might be lost of the more humble establishment which might sooner or later develop into a Nigerian "Ford" motor works.

So, Sir, I feel that some steps ought to be taken to ensure that the working of this scheme is not so intricate and so complicated that the smaller industrialists would be ignored.

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): I have only a brief observation to make on this. I think the provision made here would satisfy those who have for some time entertained fears about the future of our industries in the country. I think it is a move generally in the right direction and we on this side of the House welcome the proposal. But I would like to invite the Minister's attention to one point. The idea is to encourage the establishment of new industries. But by so doing, we should take care that we do not discourage existing local industries, and I wonder how the Minister may prevent that.

According to the provision made by the Minister, a firm which is interested in a new industry may import, say, cement in a large quantity and according to this provision it may be able to move the Governor-General in Council to refund all the customs duty paid on the cement imported from abroad. Well, if that happens, the ultimate price he pays on imported cement may be lower than the cement produced locally. Now, if we are not careful, by waiving this duty we may encourage foreign industries at the expense of our industries. I would therefore appeal to the Minister that if by exercising the rights under this particular provision it would be to the prejudice of the existing local industries, that right should not be exercised at all.

Now, the next point is of a general nature. We are giving more and more powers to our Ministers, to the Departments, but from experience gathered elsewhere it would be necessary to scrutinise the exercise of these powers at more regular intervals than we now do in this country. I would therefore suggest that when the Governor-General continues to exercise this power, there should be time, as mentioned by the Minister, when reports should be submitted to this hon. House so that we may be able to look into it and if Members have any questions to pose, they may have the time to do it. I would think that once a year would be too few, and that takes me to the often repeated request of the Members of this House that the House should meet oftener than it does now.

If the House meets, let us say, three or four times in a year, it will make it possible for us to examine how our Ministers how various Government Departments exercise the powers that we are now delegating to them. For example, this is the Budget Session. Normally, another meeting of the House should be held round about July or thereabout to scrutinise things, the powers exercised by the Departments, regulations which we like to question, and so on. That will only be within a period of three or four months and those regulations will be handy for us to examine. Having met in July, it is not too much for us to meet again, let us say, in October, and after that we meet again in January. Now, after January our meeting for the Budget Session should deal with nothing but the Budget. That will make it easy for us to follow the Minister and how he exercises the powers which we are now conferring upon him.

With these remarks, I beg to support. (Cheers).

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): I shall be very brief, Sir. I am welcoming this Bill not from inside knowledge, but it is part of our duty to represent interests of which we might have first-hand experience. But since everybody couldn't come here to speak about his particular interest, I, in reading this Bill, happened to talk to a businessman and one of the things that he complained about was that the Government talked about encouraging industries but they took great care to make the conditions so difficult for the businessman

to survive. Asking him to make his point clear, he spoke about people who engage in some industry which could find markets inside Nigeria as well as outside it.

He said at the moment we have to import some of our raw materials, at any rate some of the raw materials which we are going to manufacture into goods which are in great demand in this country and outside of it. What happens is that the material is taxed and by the time we have manufactured it into a finished article, we find the price does not compete fairly with imported goods and the time comes when people outside our own borders want to get hold of some of those goods we come up against the Customs and they clamp down on it as something going out of the country and the Excise takes its toll.

If the Minister will assure us that this Bill is intended to relieve that kind of distress, that people who import raw materials to convert into finished articles will benefit from it and those who want to export such articles on which they have paid duty once, and are going to export it out of the country, will have some relief, then this will be very welcome to those who up to now have suffered.

As a matter of fact, Sir, I would say this is a very forward looking Bill and I hope that more like it will follow.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Sir, this is a non-contentious and non-explosive Bill, in fact it moves near the Independence Motion. I therefore move, Sir, that the question be now put.

**Mr Speaker**: I could not accept that. The Minister of Trade and Industry.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry** (Mr R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker. I rise to thank the hon. Mr Daldry and others who have spoken in support of this Bill.

Mr Akwivu raised the question of the difficulty of strictly equating the cost of imported goods with that of goods locally manufactured; that if there was any necessity to err, he said, the error should be on the side of goods locally manufactured.

I appreciate his point but I would like to remind him that costing—that is, when the costs for manufactured goods are being ascertained—people who are engaged in that

exercise are people who have experience in industry. They have to do a proper costing and take into consideration the labour costs, etc., and all those factors which have to be taken into consideration. They also must leave a certain amount of room for industries that are not as efficient as those overseas that supply us with imported goods. So, Sir, I think there is no real fear.

Not only that, these costings are not done right in an office; they are done by industrial officers in consultation with the industries concerned. They just don't sit down in an office and do them, they go out to the industries and find out what they are doing, how much material they use, about the labour costs and so on, and then work out what should be an economic cost of locally produced products.

Now, the hon. Gentleman went on to talk about *laissez-faire* in regard to our industry and commerce here. I don't think that Mr Akwivu will maintain that we are practising any of that doctrine when for instance we have two pieces of legislation which are designed solely to ensure local manufacture and to give it certain advantages over imported goods. I think it is true to say that these two pieces of legislation should go to show that we have departed from that doctrine.

As regards procedure, he expressed some fears about some applications going to the Governor-General in Council and in that long channel small firms would be neglected or ignored. I want to assure him that this legislation is purposely enacted to encourage the small firms, the small industries that are being established by Nigerians, because the larger ones like the Brewery, or the Cement Factory can generally look after themselves. It is the little firms that have been started by the indigenous people that we are afraid for, and therefore we are designing ways and means to encourage them until they get on their own feet.

Chief Akintola spoke about existing industries. That we should try to encourage new industries without discouraging the existing ones. I agree with him; as a matter of fact there is a specific provision for the encouragement of existing industries giving them a chance to expand. Even after they have been in existence for ten years or more, and their expansion is considered to be in the best interests of the country, they will receive the

same concessions and the same benefits. That I would say is definite proof that we are out to help them to survive.

The question of reporting to the House, which I have mentioned before in my speech. Actually if there are enough matters to report to the House, and it meets more often as an hon. Member suggested, naturally these reports will be made. They are generally delivered in the form of a Minister making a speech in which he gives an account of his stewardship of his Ministry and Department.

Chief Solaru mentioned the question of imported goods being taxed on arrival here, especially component parts and raw materials that are being used in industry. We have been aware of this, the Financial Secretary and myself, and that is why this has been brought in order to alleviate the hardship caused to people who use imported goods for local manufacture.

Then on the other question of re-export. If people, after manufacture of imported goods, want to re-export as local products, we also agree, that is, the Financial Secretary and myself, that in that case also they should not be made to pay duty twice, and Government is in agreement with that. As a matter of fact the whole of the Customs Law and pertinent issues are being revised.

Sir, I am very grateful to the House and hon. Members.

*Question, That the Bill be read a Second Time, put and agreed to.*

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

*House in Committee.*

*Clauses 1-3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry** (Mr R. A. Njoku): Sir, I rise to move that in Clause 4, page 2, line 14, the words "or services" be left out.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, may I ask what is the explanation for this amendment?

**The Minister of Trade and Industry**: The hon. Member will notice that the second amendment shows what happened. These words were by error put in the wrong place. It is just a question of juxta position.

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

**The Minister of Trade and Industry**: Sir, I rise to move that in Clause 4, page 2, line 16, the words "or services" be there inserted.

*Amendment proposed.*

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Clause 4 as amended agreed to.*

*Clause 5.*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Chairman, my humble view about this clause is that I feel that the Minister should investigate the possibility of expressing preference for the importation of materials that can be used for manufacturing goods in this country as against the importation of finished goods. If I may use an illustration for sometime now I think about one or two years ago it was quite obvious that the people of Japan preferred importing into this country finished singlet materials as against singlet yarns and to that extent they manipulated duties and prices. It was costing 52 pence per pound to get singlet yarn into this country from Japan but 42 pence per pound to get singlet cloth woven with the yarn. I think their intention was made very clear and that is that they were interested more in exporting into this country cloths that have been woven as against exporting into this country the yarn with which we can weave the cloth.

I feel that avenues should be explored for pursuing a policy which will make countries like that appreciate the point that we are much more interested in producing the things ourselves than in having them produced and sent to us.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry** (Mr R. A. Njoku): That is really the very object of this law—to make it easy for people to manufacture here and be able to sell at competitive prices. And even when that happens if the Government is satisfied that overseas countries are dumping goods in this country selling at prices lower than the cost of production in their own country then of course there is the other remedy open to us—enacting anti-dumping laws.

**Mallam Sanni O. B. Okin** (Ilorin North): I would like the Minister to explain the method of assessing the amount to be paid on such an article.

**Chief S. L. Akitola** (Oshun West): I think we all agree with the Minister that the intention of this is to encourage the local industry but I am not happy (and I am sure many Members of this hon. House are not happy) at the way that we are executing our present policy. Why should singlet be imported into this country at all? Why cannot we be satisfied with the material for the making of these things? Why should they have to be imported into the country at all? Why can't we say: "We do not want ready-made shirts to be imported into the country; bring the cloth in and let our sewing mistresses and tailors have some share in the building up of the industry of the country?"

At the moment it may be said that shirts built locally may not be up to the satorial taste of the Minister of Trade and Industry, but after all by encouraging our tailors I am quite sure that the standard will be raised. After all a lot of the shirts being sold by Kingsway Stores are made here locally. Why cannot we stop the importation completely in order that we may encourage local industry for that matter?

I will go a step further. You have slippers being made wonderfully in different parts of the country especially from the Northern Provinces. Why do we allow slippers to be imported into this country at all. Why cannot we ban the importation of slippers made abroad so as to encourage the local industry here? If this law does not empower the Minister to impose a ban I am expecting as early as possible an amendment which will make it impossible for people to import such stock into this country.

**The Minister of Trade and Industry**: The Leader of the Opposition has raised some interesting points but I think they are outside the purview of the present legislation. He may very well probably think next of tabling a Motion and having this House debate it. This is an entirely separate issue.

*Clauses 5 to 10 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

## MOTIONS

### ESTABLISHMENT OF POST OFFICES

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe): Mr Speaker, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name on the establishment of post offices

within Nigeria. The Motion calls on this House to approve the policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the establishment of post offices within Nigeria as set out in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

You will have noticed, Sir, that there is a second Motion also standing in my name asking the House to approve Government's policy on the development of telecommunications within Nigeria. These two forms of development which are carried out by the Posts and Telegraphs Department are in fact in many respects inseparable and therefore some of my opening remarks must inevitably refer to the second Motion standing in my name, though I shall, so far as possible, confine myself to the first Motion on post offices and after my opening remarks shall, of course, deal entirely with this aspect of the Department's work and of Government's policy.

The factor which controls all development whether postal or telecommunications, is the amount of money which this hon. House has been able to vote for these purposes. Whatever our plans and whatever our wishes, we cannot go beyond the financial limit which the House has set. The House has approved the expenditure of £12,890,000 on the Posts and Telegraphs Economic Programme. It is not possible to divide that money out precisely into what is postal, what is telecommunications, and what is offices and quarters, for the whole work of the Department is intermingled and very often one building will serve two purposes.

**Mr Speaker**: I am sorry to interrupt the Minister. Under Standing Orders sitting is suspended until 3 o'clock.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation**: Mr Speaker, I will continue from where I left off before the break.

Nevertheless, a rough breakdown is possible and in round figures the £12,900,000 which has been allocated has been divided—£6,000,000 for telecommunications, £4,000,000 for postal development and post offices, and £2.9 million for quarters, offices, stores, and other non-postal buildings.

That is the rough breakdown of the money which this House has approved and that it is the framework within which the two White

Papers and the two sets of planning have been framed.

Having given the House this background statement, I must now refer to Sessional Paper No. 4 which is the Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria. We have naturally had great difficulty in framing this programme because the demand for postal services and post offices is so great that we could profitably and well have spent at least twice the amount which it was possible to allocate. I have been faced with honouring many old commitments which had been made for the establishment of post offices and promises to convert postal agencies into departmental post offices. In the light of present knowledge many of these promises would not be made to-day but so far as I have been able to discover from records, I have honoured the promises made in this House and made directly either by myself or my predecessors in regard to the establishment of post offices. When honourable Members read this White Paper I am sure they will, in every case, wish that more could have been done for them and their constituents, and in many cases that something could have been done for them and their constituents. Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of this House will realise that it is not unwillingness to provide post offices in every Division and in every large town, but our inability to do so within the funds provided.

To turn to the White Paper. The first part of the Paper refers to postal agencies and explains the basis on which they work, the standards for establishing new postal agencies and the services which will be given by them. There is also in Annexure I the revised scale of allowances to Postal Agents which will show the House that the wishes of honourable Members to improve the lot of these Postal Agencies has not been lost sight of.

In considering the whole question of post offices and postal agencies we have been faced by the fact that to convert a postal agency a departmental post office involves a heavy additional annual commitment to the Department's annually recurrent expenses and also involves the capital cost of building the post office. If money is to be left for the development of the larger offices, sorting offices, air mail services and the like, only a limited

proportion of the funds available can be spent on building new post offices or the conversion of postal agencies. I and my advisers have therefore devised a system which is set out in the Paper and which I strongly recommend to the House for acceptance. That is the system of sub-post offices. The whole matter is set out in detail in the Paper but briefly, in order to economise our capital funds and in order to give the country the best value for its money, I have accepted the recommendation of the Posts and Telegraphs' Advisory Council to raise the point at which the conversion of a postal agency to a post office will be considered. Honourable Members will recall that the practice was formerly to agree to conversion when the agency reached 18,000 units of work per annum. Owing to a rather more generous re-assessment of the units of work, which will materially improve the prospects of the Postal Agents, 24,000 units on the new calculation represents the same amount of work as was formerly done for 18,000 units. The real point is that at 24,000 units, which is the same as the old reckoning of 18,000, the postal agency will now be considered for conversion to a sub-post office. The advantages of the sub-post office system are set out in detail in the Paper and I do not wish to dwell on them too long. The sub-post office system will enable the Department, in co-operation with the Local Authorities, to provide a full range of postal services for the local community at a much lower cost than that of conversion to a departmental post office. Hon. Members will observe from the White Paper that, where a postal agency is converted to a sub-post office, the sub-post-master, who will have a much wider range of duties, will receive very substantially better payment for his work and the wider range of business transacted should enable him to increase very greatly the amount of work done as measured in units of postal work and this again will help him financially. He will also be given an allowance which will enable him to take on some additional staff.

This system follows closely the United Kingdom system under which there are a limited number of post offices and head post offices and a very large number of smaller offices working to the larger offices, which are known as scale payment offices and which are run on just the same system as we propose here for our sub-post offices. They give a full range of postal services and so far as the

man in the street is concerned they are post offices since he can transact all classes of business there. In the United Kingdom, just as in Nigeria, funds are not available to convert every scale payment office into a Crown post office.

I should now like to turn to the paragraphs in the White Paper on community self help schemes. The White Paper is self-explanatory and I hope that this opportunity for communities to help themselves will prove popular and be widely taken advantage of.

The paragraphs in the White Paper on departmental post office construction and on general development will well repay study and I am confident that the House will approve the principles set out in them.

There is one extremely interesting aspect of the Posts and Telegraphs building programme: that is that, with a view to cutting down costs, the Department has been able to evolve a completely new type of light steel-frame structure. The walls of the building consist of concrete slabs, which are bolted to the steel frame, and the whole is then rendered so that it has exactly the same appearance as the traditional type building and will have very much the same length of life. This type of construction will be very much cheaper than any we have yet used.

When the Advisory Council met last year they saw a prototype prefabricated building: the new type of construction is completely different and vastly more satisfactory. A prototype has been constructed next to the post office at Yaba and will be used as a sorting office. I hope that any Members who are passing by will take a look at it. I shall also ask the Members of the Advisory Council to inspect it on Friday.

Lastly, in Annexures 4 to 6 are set out the actual programmes of work proposed. These programmes have been very carefully discussed by the Advisory Council and represent a balance between the three Regions and the Cameroons and both on political and administrative grounds represent the best compromise we have been able to arrive at. In Annexure 4 is the construction programme for the year 1956-57 and hon Members will see that all these projects are now in an advanced stage and in one or two cases are just waiting to be opened. Annexure 5 shows what is proposed in 1957-58 and I believe that the House will

join me in saying that it is an impressive list and I can also assure the House that it is the maximum we can hope to achieve both in terms of money and in terms of the Public Works Department executive capacity. The last Annexure, Number 6, sets out the work which will be done during 1958-60 when the Financial Secretary gives the assurances that the final instalment of the funds required will be available.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I and my departments can work marvels but we cannot work miracles. If the House decides that post offices are required at other places than those at which we have indicated in the White Paper, then the House must also decide which of the post offices already in the various annexures can be deleted. The programme set out in the annexures is the absolute maximum which can be achieved in the time and within the limit of the funds available. If any other names must go in then some of those shown must come out. I believe that the Members of this hon. House will find that the proposals I have put forward are the best that can be devised within the limits which have been set.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Sir I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief V. Duro Phillips** (Ijebu West): Mr Speaker Sir, the White Paper entitled Statement of the Policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the Establishment of post offices within Nigeria, known as Paper No. 4 of 1957, is welcome to this side of the House. I say Sir, that the Paper could be described as the charter for efficient and prompt postal facilities in Nigeria.

The hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation is also to be congratulated for the way in which he has been able to demonstrate to the Members of this House his high desire to satisfy the frequent demands from all sections of the House for improved postal facilities. There is no doubt Sir, that the Minister has been properly advised by the array of advisers he has in his Department, and that the Minister has made up his mind not to rest until we are all satisfied with our postal facilities.

It is only my duty, Sir, that comment should be made on some aspects of the White Paper,



very briefly. In the first place, Sir, it is noted that the Minister proposes to enable areas which hitherto were served by postal agents to have increased facilities by raising the status of these postal agencies to departmental sub-post offices. Every time we come to the floor of the House we ask for improvement of postal facilities in the rural areas. I would say that this is the first provision by the Minister; this provision relating to paragraph 12 of the White Paper, has come in very good time.

The Minister now proposes to lay down certain conditions as follows:—

1. That suitable persons must be available to conduct the business of the sub-post office;
2. That local authorities should be able to sponsor the postal agent who would then be known as the sub-postmaster, and some other four conditions.

I would like to say, Sir, that by these very provisions the Minister has answered the popular demand of the people. There is no doubt that a lot of our people in rural areas would take advantage of these very provisions, particularly in my own Constituency. I have hammered on the need for provision of Departmental sub-post offices in about seven or eight towns of my Constituency. I would now welcome this provision, and thank the Minister for it. I would go further and assure the Minister that my people in those seven or eight towns would take immediate advantage of these provisions. They would be able to sponsor. There would be postmasters. They would be able to provide the land on which the sub-post offices would be built, and not only that, Sir, they would be able to offer adequate guarantee as the sponsoring authority, for the efficient handling of postal matters by the sub-postmaster. The necessary money would be given and the Minister would be satisfied that each of these towns would qualify for the 24,000 annual unit.

It is therefore my duty to warn the Minister now, that he should be ready for hundreds of demands under this paragraph. Not only would demands for these facilities come from my own Constituency; they are very likely to come from other Constituencies.

Another comment I would like to make, Sir, is on paragraph 25 of the White Paper. As I

said, paragraph 12 went to answer the demand of people where postal agencies were existing. Now, Sir, paragraph 25 would go further to provide facilities for people in rural areas where even postal agencies were not in existence. Whether postal agencies were there or not, as long as the people could satisfy the conditions laid down under paragraph 25, that is the conditions under Community Self-help Scheme the Minister would be ready to give them their demand. It is here again, Sir, that I need to point out to the Minister, that several demands under this paragraph for provision of substantial post office facilities would be made, and it is expected, Sir, that the Minister would be ready to answer these demands without delay, without equivocation.

Sir, it is noted that the Minister has also come to the aid of postal agents. In the past, these agents were very poorly paid, and could hardly live on the allowances they received, in spite of the fact that most of them did full-time service as postal agents. The new scales enumerated at pages 6 and 7 are indeed commendable.

The scales were akin to those received by clerks substantially engaged, originally engaged, by the Department as postal officers, and I am happy, Sir, that the postal agents who are now serving in the Department would at least feel satisfied that the Minister has been very carefully concerned with their welfare.

There is, however, a suggestion that I would like to place here. Where a postal agent is raised to the status of a sub-postmaster, it should be made clear to the sponsoring authority that they are not the masters of this new sub-postmaster, but that the new sub-postmaster is directly responsible to the head of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in connection with the execution of his commission. There should be no interference, whatsoever, from the local people under the claim of the fact that they were the people who had found him the job by recommending him to the hon. Minister for appointment.

Sir, I also note that a speedy movement of mails is proposed by the hon. Minister. I would like again to emphasise the fact that there are certain parts of my constituency which need the assistance of the Minister, and I am speaking with particular reference to the Ijebu Waterside. Even up till to-day it takes a letter three weeks to get through Lagos to

Abigi, the capital of Ijebu Waterside. Why that should be, I do not know. The Minister should take it upon himself to carry out an investigation as to how a letter posted in Lagos should take three weeks to pass through Ibadan to Ijebu Ode to Epe before it is subsequently delivered to the addressee at Abigi. If the Minister were to pursue the policy enunciated at page 6 with regard to speedy movement of mails, I would commend the case of the people living in Ijebu Waterside to his care for investigation and redress.

Mr Speaker, this is indeed a very good paper. It is a paper that has answered our prayers, and for it and on behalf of my people, I rise to thank the hon. Minister.

**M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa** (Katsina West Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given me to say a few words on this White Paper. As a member of the Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Board, nothing has pleased me more than to listen to the contributions hon. Members have made to the debate of this White Paper. I hope these contributions will help the Minister, the Minister of Communications and Aviation and the Advisory Board to formulate this and future programmes of the P. and T.

However, Sir, I feel I must join my Friends in commenting on this White Paper whose main aim is to extend full postal facilities to more and more people of this country.

I draw the attention of this House to paragraph 29 of the White Paper. I must congratulate the Government for having set up training programmes for its staff. I am appealing to the Government not to neglect the training of Nigerian telephone operators in the essential principle of courtesy. The operators in the Northern Region seem to me to be the worst behaved type of operators we have in this country. They lack respects for the taxpayers from whose contributions they are paid; they lack civility and all that goes to make for happy relationship between telephone users and the Department. It is through these set of telephone operators that the P. and T. are brought constantly in touch with the general public. I hope they will be included in the Department's training programmes.

During the visit of His Excellency the Governor-General to Katsina, he heard many requests concerning the establishment of telephone exchange services for Katsina and

Daura. I hope the Government will grant this request in order to avoid being accused of impartiality.

I am also reminding the Government about my last year's request about a post office along the Kankia Trunk A Road at Mile No. 37 between Kano and Katsina. I was surprised to see that this request of mine has not been included in any of Annexures 1 to 6. A post office along this road is imperative and will be of immense help to travellers and traders going from Kano to Katsina and vice-versa.

I hope that from the proposals set in the White Paper, it will soon be time for the Government to provide a post office and not a postal agency for Dutsinma in Katsina Province.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I believe that with these few comments added to the White Paper, the Government will truly succeed in the objective it has outlined in this White Paper.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Rev. E. S. Bens** (Brass): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, if one reads through the Sessional Papers Numbers 4 and 8, I think that the proposals that are put forward by the Minister of Communications and Aviation are concrete and, therefore, he deserves to be praised and congratulated. Mr Speaker, I thought these two papers would be taken together, in order that time may be given to some other papers. At any rate I am now praying to do that.

One reason, Sir, why I welcome this Paper is that in paragraph 11, sub-clause 3, provision is made for telephone call offices as a duty to postal agents. I think, Sir, this is very remarkable and I believe that now the rural areas will have opportunities of getting in touch with the urban and township areas, and I am asking the Minister to put, I pray, he should put this into effect as quickly as possible. Our communities in the rural areas are suffering very badly and telephone systems to be attached in all the agencies, I think, will help to improve our contact with the outside world.

Another section that impresses me, Mr Speaker, is this Annexure 1, where salary scales are proposed in better conditions for postal agents. It has been our experience that many of the postal agents, I say many, have not been satisfied with their present pay and I think it has resulted in embezzlement somehow, so that

these proposals will now go I am sure, to check a great deal the trouble of embezzlement.

Now, from the general, Sir, I go to more specific cases. The White Paper has made gross omissions. Brass has been badly omitted. I think Yenegoa will be considered to be eligible to merit a post office. At least Yenegoa is very important, in my opinion, in Brass Division. It has a Grammar School, it has an hospital, it is the road terminus and then it has trading firms and it has oil mills. That is the County Council headquarters of Brass. I think these factors do contribute to the importance of Yenegoa, and anything short of a post office at Yenegoa is something that will deprive us of our contact with the outside world and I say, Sir, that any work that will be done there will not be effective unless a post office is situated there with telecommunications facilities.

I see that proposals are being made to put post offices at Burutu and Forcados. These are welcomed. But if I remember rightly, the hon. Ezonbodor, who represents Western Ijaw Division, has put forward a Motion in this House and it was carried, last year, that post offices should be set up at Patani and at Bomadi. These places are preferred to places like Forcados and Burutu. It is true Forcados is the headquarters, administratively, of Western Ijaw, but then they are removing to Bomadi and nobody can talk any amount of story to please us. We know that the northern side of Western Ijaw, and the northern side of Brass Division, the population is dense, and I think these are the places that Government should consider in putting up post offices. And I pray he should consider these places. Boma and Patani are very important in matters of postal services and telecommunications services.

Mr Speaker, another thing that strikes me, when you go through the creek areas and some of the places on the mainland, is that in matters of building of post offices and other telecommunications offices, you will find that the type of buildings, given to the Creek areas are very junior, I say very small; they may be of type I in the past. I think this time, Sir, we are bored with them. There should be no discrimination whatsoever in the distribution of amenities by the governments of Nigeria, particularly our Federal Government. And I would wish that a new attitude should be assumed to approach getting up of post offices. The type should be improved.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another point, Sir, which I want to make is this. At Nembe in Brass Division, we have a new post office but it has no telecommunication offices. At Brass Town, where the administrative officers reside, we have another post office but it is a house, I think, bought from N.A. One room of the small house is used as an attachment to the administrative office, then the two remaining rooms are used as post office. I do not think this is good, where our D.O.'s and other important officials of the division are staying. These types of buildings are really very, very bad and derogatory to a place and division like Brass. Brass, Sir, has been at least, eminent in the past and will continue to be eminent and, Mr Speaker, I think Brass has been bearing the torchlight of civilization in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, much has been said and much is proposed for improvement of telecommunications and postal services on the mainland by way of providing mobile post offices. I have not seen any single mobile post office in the form of a launch in the Creek areas. I think now the Government should put the Creek areas into consideration. Last year, or in 1955, I think the hon. the Minister of Communications and Aviation told me, perhaps in particular, and he told the hon. House, that a special type of radio boxes is being provided. We are now waiting to see these boxes introduced.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Alhaji Ibrahim Ladan Fari, Sarkin Sulubawa (North Katsina):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to speak on this White Paper which states the policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria. I am very pleased, and I hope hon. Members feel the same, to note that this our able Government recognises the need for the extension of full postal facilities to more and more people. We are told that the proposal or scheme involves the bridging of the gap between postal agencies and departmental post offices by a new type of office to be called a sub-post office, or a rural post office. It is in the hope that the Government may succeed in this objective that I feel it my duty to make a few comments.

I will also, Sir, seize the opportunity thus offered me to register my appreciation of the

unblemished activities of the Minister of Communications and Aviation and his Ministry. I believe it is the duty of every legislator in this House to give praise to where it is deserved and to criticise constructively.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department has made remarkable achievements in recent years, both in the establishment of many post offices to meet the wishes of Members of this House and in its improved services. And by his definition of something being progressive, I hope the Leader of the Opposition will agree with me that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is really progressive. And in praising the Government for this achievement we must not forget the one man who has made this progress possible, Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe, the Minister of Communications and Aviation. All Members will agree that he has satisfied all sections of this country. This is not an easy task, and there is no doubt that he has always proved his ability as a Minister of State. He has proved that a Minister of State can be above tribal prejudices, above regionalism and even above politics. (Applause).

This White Paper before us to-day is another proof of his desire and that of his Ministry to serve all sections of the community.

No one can fail to agree that Savings Bank facilities are of great importance to rural areas, especially when it is realised that many rural areas have few or no commercial banking houses at all. It is for this reason that I disagree with item 4 of paragraph 11, namely that one of the conditions for the establishment of savings banks at postal agencies must be that the agency is in a progressive area. How can one tell if any area is progressive or not? This item is a bit too vague and needs either amplification or deletion. After all, every area in Nigeria to-day claims to be progressive.

I welcome the scheme proposed in the White Paper for the training and remuneration of sub-office postmasters. I believe the scheme will ensure efficiency and honesty now lacking amongst postal agencies.

I also welcome the assurance that the conversion points of postal agency to a sub-post office, or sub-post office to departmental post office, will not be too rigid. In which case the high units of business transacted per annum by postal agency will not be too rigidly applied.

The Government should not also forget or fail to improve equally the quick transmission of internal letters. Internal letters in the country to-day, whether they are carried by air, rail, road or water, continue to take more days than can reasonably be expected. In fact, some letters even take over a week to get to their destination. I, therefore, welcome the expansion of the means of transport proposed in paragraph 29. The same applies to the despatch of telegrams. There must be clear distinction by Post Office staff between telegrams and letters.

One more point Sir. I am surprised to note that none of the paragraphs from 1 to 6 makes provision for Postal Agencies at Jibiya, a town along the French border. It is also an important trading town on the international road which runs from Kano through to French territory. I believe that a Postal Agency will be of economic importance, not only to these traders but also to the country as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few comments I support the White Paper.

**Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West):** Mr Speaker, Sir, while I support this White Paper, I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to paragraph 2, about the difference between the Postal Agencies and the Post Offices. I have said, Sir, that in my Constituency, we have applied for a sub-Post Office and it has not been given to us. I am convinced again, Sir, about the inspection of these Postal Agencies, so that they may be converted to sub-Post Offices. As it says in this White Paper, Sir, I think the Minister of Communications and Aviation will take note and make the necessary alterations to see that the Postal Agencies in these towns are inspected and that they are recommended for sub-Post Offices. We know very well that Post Offices are not built for pleasure, but for postal facilities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, turning to paragraph 11, I perceive the duties of the Postal Agencies—1. sale of stamps and postal orders and sale of vouchers but, Sir, I beg to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation that in my Constituency, the sale of paludrine and mepacrine is still going on in Postal Agencies. I do not know why all this should be carried on in these Agencies. (An hon. Member: Because of Malaria.) I do not know why the Government, with all

these chemists and druggists, should encourage the sale of this paludrine and mepacrine in Postal Agencies. Instead of selling all those tablets, they can sell licence plates. (Interruption). They do not go together at all, Sir.

Sir, it is also stated in paragraph 2 that priority would be given to the Departmental Offices at Administrative Headquarters. I have been to the Minister of Communications and Aviation on behalf of my people, that we want a sub-Post Office in the division.

Mr S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, a statement of policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria, as contained in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, does not, in my view, fall short of what can be expected from our Minister, with a progressive outlook such as the hon. the Minister of Communications and Aviation. (Hear, hear). When some of us, or all of us, in this hon. House, give praise to the hon. the Minister of Communications and Aviation for the energetic way in which he applied himself in dealing with the matters which come under his portfolio, we do so because of the results of the work that we see. (Hear, hear). I will not be doing good justice to my feelings if I do not express the appreciation of my people for the visit paid by the Minister to my Constituency. I also wish to thank him for the completion of the Post Office building at Araka, the opening of which we look forward to at no distant date.

The Ministry of Communications and Aviation is one of the few Ministries of the Federal Government, whose activities spread to all parts, either in a big way or in a small way. The White Paper on the policy proposed has gone all out to justify this claim. It has laid down in clear words the standards for establishing Postal Agencies, the standard for establishing sub-Post Offices and the conditions for the establishing of the Departmental Post Offices. Lack of knowledge of these standards and conditions, Mr Speaker, has evoked a series of questions by hon. Members from the under-developed areas. One striking and interesting point is the assurance given by the Minister that the standards and conditions laid down are not hard and fast rules. The Minister made it quite clear that the standards and conditions for conversion points, will be

kept under constant review and will be modified, if necessary, in the light of experience.

Sir, looking at the White Paper, the Post Office construction proposed for commencement during 1957-58, no Postal Agency in the Delta Province was considered worthy for inclusion in the list of Post Offices proposed for construction for 1957-58, nor do you find any on the list for 1958-60. This omission is as amazing as it is regrettable, when you think of the old Postal Agency at Ole. Ole is the district headquarters of this District Council, an area comprising certain large plants. In this area, Sir, we have many institutions of learning, owned by voluntary agencies, Teachers, Training Centres, Grammar School, etc., etc., and some of these institutions run from various parts of the country. They definitely require good postal facilities, and many sons and daughters from this area, who live abroad, and who wish to keep in constant touch with their people at home, call for better facilities than the existing provisions.

For goodness sake, we want our Minister to make us feel that we are part and parcel of this Federation when distributing postal facilities because that is the only thing we in the Delta Province, particularly those in the hinterland, come in for attention from the Federal Government. We do not come in for a single mile of Trunk A road, so that when the Federal Government talks of spending £3,500 for tarring a mile of Trunk A road we just fold our arms and merely look on. To rule off the Postal Agency at Ole in Urhobo Division from being provided for in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, is grossly unfair to this part of the Federation. I am appealing to the hon. the Minister of Communications and Aviation to include just only one, the Postal Agency at Ole, for conversion to a sub-Post Office or departmental post office during 1958-60 scheme on Annexure 6.

The most striking point in the White Paper is paragraph 29, page 6, about the training of staff. Here, Sir, with your permission, I would like to read:—

“Comprehensive training schemes on the most modern lines have been set up for both supervisory and rank and file staff. More than fifty per cent of the postal supervisory staff have passed through the training course. Courses have been established for officers of the controlling and head postmaster grades.

All these courses will be continued and expanded throughout the coming year, and initial training and refresher courses will be a permanent feature of the postal organisation.”

This is very important, Sir. No useful purpose will have been served if after encouraging people to build by community efforts Posts Offices, there are no staff to run them. I congratulate the Minister for his foresight in this connection.

Mr Speaker, I support the White Paper.

M. Hassan Zuru (Kontagora): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the White Paper. It is a White Paper, Sir, which pulls the mind of a man. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to assure the Minister, Sir, that this is a promise from him. I saw in the White Paper that in the Post Office construction proposed for commencement during 1957-1958, Kontagora and Zuru are included. Mr Speaker, Sir, officials of this Department visit this place several times promising the people that Post Offices will be built for them, but nothing has been done. But this is the evidence, Sir, which I am going to take to my people, Sir, telling them that this is a promise from the Minister himself that this post office construction will start here during 1957-1958, that means next year.

The people of these two areas are fed up with this Department. There are no Post Offices in many places and no mail transaction, Sir. The Post Office which is at Kontagora, Sir, is four miles away from town. The Post Office was built attached to the District Office. It is very hard for a man who has no transport for himself to go to the Post Office and do his business. A site was chosen long ago and the place was surveyed and yet a new Post Office should have been built at Kontagora many years ago but no sign of it. Totally, there is no Post Office in Zuru. It is only a temporary building borrowed from the Native Authority which was being used many years ago. This Department promised to build a Post Office, a site was only chosen and the place was surveyed and nothing has been done too.

But I am going to take this White Paper to the people of both these towns, telling them that this is an assurance now from the Minister himself that these Post Offices are going to be built. This is what I rise up now to-day, Sir, to assure the Minister.

Mr J. Mbayam (Nkambe): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion, although Nkambe and Wum Divisions have been knocked out of the picture by the high standard of units required for the conversion of a Postal Agency to a Departmental Post Office. Slow mail services are the cause of the low units at Nkambe and Wum Postal Agencies. I am asking the Minister of Communications and Aviation to see to it that a mail van is provided—if possible two mail vans should be provided—to collect and distribute mails along the ring road to Nkambe, Bansa and Wum Divisions. Regular mail services will surely increase the units of business transaction. With the present poor services, we are not hoping to get any Post Office at Nkambe and Wum Divisions.

Bamenda is very far off from Nkambe and Wum Divisions. Nkambe is 110 miles from Bamenda. The Department is depending only on the Prison Department. There is a Prison Department van which is the only van which is helping in collecting mails from Bamenda and to distribute them to Nkambe and Wum Divisions. This system is very, very poor. I don't think it is good for a Department like the Posts and Telegraphs Department to be a parasite to the Prisons Department. As I have seen no possibility of Nkambe Division getting a Post Office, I think the Minister will use his good offices to provide Nkambe and Wum Divisions with two mail vans.

Again, Sir, I have noticed that priority will be given to the establishment of Departmental Post Offices at administrative headquarters. The priority of Nkambe and Wum Divisions as administrative headquarters has been completely left out of the policy proposed by the Federal Government. What is priority, if Nkambe and Wum Divisions are not entitled to Post Offices because of the low units of business transacted? I think they are entitled because they are the administrative headquarters of the two Divisions. The Minister should say something about this.

Mr Speaker, we have said a lot about this and at nearly every sitting of this House we have pointed out to the Minister what is required in the Southern Cameroons in the way of postal facilities. There are no regular mail services between Victoria and Bamenda, and when the mails do arrive from Victoria they lie for weeks and months very often before they are delivered.

This is really a big loss to the Nkambe and Wum Divisions. For instance, teachers have complained a good deal because a lot of their parcels either never arrive, or arrive late. The books which they have ordered from England take a long time to be delivered to them, and sometimes they never reach them at all. There are people who are trying to undertake correspondence courses by mail, but the only people who benefit from this service are the people who live near and round about the main Post Office at Bamenda, but the people living 110 miles away do not enjoy this service at all.

Mr Speaker, I will not waste the time of this House. In any case I think the Minister has taken notice of what has been said, and all that is left for me is to pray him to remedy this situation.

Mr Speaker: May I just say one thing. I notice that some Members having made their speeches tend to go out of the Chamber. It is not right to do that; you ought to stay and listen and I hope Members will stay, particularly to-day to help to keep up the quorum.

Mr S. F. Nwika (Ogoni): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this White Paper for the provision of postal facilities to various parts of the country. I think we must learn to give praise when it is due. I am therefore congratulating the hon. Minister on what he has been able to achieve so far in this country in the provision of postal facilities. I want to convey to him the special thanks of my constituency for the Post Office that has just been completed there and which will soon be opened. It is something for which we are grateful and for which we have been longing for quite a long time. Now that it has been granted to us, I feel that I should extend our thanks to the hon. Minister.

At this stage of our development we cannot over-emphasize the importance of postal facilities. We cannot do without communicating with other parts of the country so that the provision of postal facilities in all parts of the country is very important. In this connection, Sir, I am asking the hon. Minister to kindly do more for us in Ogoni Division than he has done so far. I notice in this White Paper that provision has not been made for the establish-

ment of post offices and postal agencies in my Division. In Annexure 5, proposals for 1957-58 there has been no fresh provision for my constituency. Now we have five clans in my Division, and we have only one Departmental Post Office, that just completed.

We have another Postal Agency in one of the clans, but the other four have no postal facilities whatsoever. Now paragraph 10, sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) read as follows: (1) There must be a minimum of 120 items of mail delivered per week in the area to be served; (2) In rural areas, the nearest Postal Agency, Sub-Post Office, or Post Office should be at least five miles away. Now, Sir, it is this latter point with which I want to deal. As I have just mentioned we have only one Departmental Post Office in the Administrative Headquarters in my Division, and one of the five clans, has a Postal Agency. The other four clans are about ten miles away from the Administrative Headquarters and it is difficult for people to come into the centre to transact their postal business. I am appealing to the hon. Minister therefore to provide more postal agencies in this area.

I quite agree, Sir, with the hon. Duro Phillips when he mentioned that the provision under paragraph 25 is going to mean more demands on the Ministry for the provision of more Post Offices, because with the offer of £500 more demands will be made on the Ministry for the provision of more Post Offices. By community labour people will be able to build more Post Offices and they will find it very easy by using the £500 that the Government is going to give them to build more Post Offices. Therefore he should be prepared to receive more demands from the people.

I support this White Paper wholeheartedly and thank the hon. Minister for what he has done and pray him to come to our aid to give us more postal facilities in the future.

Sir, I beg to support.

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West): Mr Speaker, Sir, a point of order. I would crave your indulgence, Sir, that since this Motion and the next one are closely allied we should stop here and let the Minister move the next one.

If Members want to make further references to Post Offices they can make them during the next debate.

Mr Speaker: I was just going to call the Minister. I think it is for him to choose whether he wishes to turn from this one to the next, but it is not the next one on the Order Paper, there is one intervening. The Minister of Communications and Aviation.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Dr the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe): I have listened most attentively to the observations which have been made by Members on the statement of policy on the establishment of Post Offices by the Government. I am grateful to Members for statements of appreciation which have been made about the Ministry, and I will immediately transfer these statements to the members of my Ministry and Department, who work day and night to carry out your wishes. If they are not energetic and able I can dream dreams and see visions, but somebody must have to reduce those visions and dreams into a practical realisation. (Applause).

I have noted the observation by Chief Duro Phillips about the delay of letters. He took as an example the Ijebu Waterside and I am sure it applies to many other areas. We recognise the need for people to get their letters on time and that is why we have made a statement concerning it in the White Paper. That is a problem we have and we know we face it and we are trying steadily how we can improve the situation.

We have succeeded in cutting the delay in places along motor trunk routes between here and, say, Benin, Asaba and so on, because we have found some system of transport highly organised that will solve that. But we are also constantly seeking how we can reduce this delay because I am aware that in England when you post a letter to any place in London at least within twenty-four hours that letter will reach its destination and that is an ideal we have to copy in this country. But you will realise the technical difficulties. Once we know that such a problem exists and we bend our efforts to achieving it we will find a way some day.

A Northern Member made an observation about telephone operators. He was speaking specifically on the area which he came from and said he encountered very bad operators who are still rude in giving public services. I want to say this that once in a while I also come

across such operators. About the 12th or 13th February of this year at Abakaliki I had occasion to use the telephone and I think there were two operators there. The most junior person was very curt in the way he answered the telephone. I do not take up the telephone and say I am the Minister of Communications. I like to be a member of the public and just watch how my people were getting along. I saw that this chap was not very well behaved in the answering of the telephones. I took the opportunity to inform the next person to him that we have made a statement to the public about courtesy and I would want to see that that courtesy is carried out.

I am also suggesting that senior members of the Posts and Telegraphs—men in the street starting from the Director on—should from time to time take up the telephone without saying who they are to see whether this thing is working. I would say that where a person is found to be rude to the public, and I am saying this for the benefit of those who have to administer this policy, that I take a very serious view about it and those who do not want to retain their jobs through rudeness should be made to quit their jobs. (Applause). I am making it as a public statement. It is very annoying for people who work day and night to take up the telephone and instead of hearing a good helping voice they hear just an uncultured voice. It is not done in England and we must try to preserve a certain standard. I am making it for the benefit of those who have to administer these things. And you also who are the watchdogs if you see some of these things please do not hesitate to bring them to our attention. At the same time in bringing it to our attention be sympathetic. Those you can overlook those you can report to the higher man, do not take them up unless you are compelled to and once it gets to the proper quarter attention will be given to it.

Now to the question of the Rivers. Whether we make provision for post office to be built at Yenegoa or any other point in the Rivers, I cannot hold that promise to you. But I am stating now that I do not like cures by piecemeal methods. Any cure must come as a result of an efficient diagnosis. I may not be in a position to make a tour of the Rivers both on the Western side and on the Eastern side but I have called the attention of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs that he should plan a tour with another member of my Ministry, since it

is a technical question, to tour the Rivers. We will provide a good lunch and all facilities for an inspection tour and then report as a technical man what is lacking. From there we can know what to do.

The question of Orieh in Isoko District. At present the unit of work done there is about 13,000. There is an assurance which I can give. Perhaps when it was 13,000 was a long time ago. Let the Department see what the unit of work is at the present time.

I come to the Cameroons. I am answering this not because Mr Mukete is here but I will say what I feel on this subject. I have examined this problem which has come up even in the way of a Motion. It is unfortunate that we shall be unable to debate this Motion before this House will adjourn *sine die*. But I do say that about the agencies on your ring road containing the six towns the Member mentioned we are planning to arrange a weekly mail service for all these towns on the ring road by Co-operative Society contract. I will have to make this qualification. The agencies will be asked to contribute no matter how little to the cost, because it is not the policy of the Government to provide transport between one postal agency and another or between a postal agency and the departmental post office, because if we undertake to do that there are many postal agencies which we open and will undertake to open in order to facilitate communication even though we are not in a position to make it a departmental post office. There are so many hundreds of thousands of them and if we say we will provide transport for mail services between them and the departmental post office we will be broke and the Financial Secretary will never support such a proposal. But for this very special case we will do it by Co-operative method in which you will contribute very little everything being considered.

I think, Mr Speaker, that I have exhausted all the points raised and I can say that though I am not in a position to satisfy everyone it is the duty of this Legislature to begin with this White Paper just as a beginning and from this step we will review things and we may have a windfall somehow and I hope that with that windfall we will come to review and see what can be added. But what Members have given me now in the way of provision is what I have offered them.

**The Minister of Social Services** (Mr Aja Nwachuku) 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.*

*Resolved*, That this House approves the policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the establishment of Post Offices within Nigeria as set out in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

*Sitting suspended.*

*Sitting resumed.*

#### FEDERAL FISHERIES SERVICE

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Chief Kolawole Balogun): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move Motion No. 5 on the Order Paper: "That this House approves the policy set out in the White Paper on the Federal Fisheries Service."

I know that the House will welcome this statement of the Government's policy and the proposals which it contains for the expansion of the Federal Fisheries Service. I should, indeed, have liked to bring these proposals to the House sooner, but we have been held up by the uncertainty which has existed as to the future of the West African Fisheries Research Institute, established at Kissy in Sierra Leone in 1951.

This Government and the Government of the Gold Coast had not been at all happy about the results obtained from the Institute, to the cost of which Nigeria was, of course, making a substantial contribution (£14,000-£15,000 per annum on the average) and eventually, in June last year, a Mission was sent out to West Africa by the Secretary of State for the Colonies "to study local fisheries and to make recommendations about the scope of future fisheries research."

The Mission came to the regretful conclusion that, in the circumstances, it would be best to wind the Institute up, and the West African Governments have now agreed that this should be done—winding up is now in fact, in progress. This does not mean, however, the end of co-operation in West Africa with respect to fisheries research; As before we shall make available to the other Governments the results of our work in Nigeria, and we shall

receive in exchange the results of the work done in other territories.

The winding up of the Institute however does mean that additional responsibilities will be imposed on the Federal Fisheries Service, since that Department must now undertake research work which the Institute might hitherto have been expected to do.

Hon. Members will have studied the proposals in the White Paper and I shall not waste their time by repeating those proposals in detail now. I know very well that what the House wants and what the public wants is more fish. Well, all our proposals, directly and indirectly, are aimed at that goal, but Members will hardly need warning that fisheries research, like other kinds of research, cannot produce results overnight. What we want to discover is, firstly, where and when the fish are to be found, and secondly, what is the most efficient way of catching them. The Fisheries Research Service has been working on these problems for quite some time now, and has achieved valuable results; in particular the introduction of new types of net along our coasts has greatly increased catches, and in this respect, I want to advise hon. Members when they do come to Lagos again, that they should visit the Fisheries Research Station at the Victoria Beach, and they will see the nature of the work that is going on there. Then those people who live in the Eastern Region can go to Opobo, near the boat yard. We have a Fisheries Research Station there, and they can see what nature of work is being done there.

**An hon. Member**: What about Brass?

**The Minister of Research and Information**: We are coming to Brass very soon, but we have to go step by step. The value of the increase to the fisherman has been estimated at £300,000 a year. But the Department has been handicapped by lack of funds and equipment. Once they have the ships and the men they can start collecting the essential basic information, without which they are like a blind man trying to catch fish with his bare hands.

**An hon. Member**: That will be a great day.

**The Minister of Research and Information**: Oh that day is coming very soon. As a matter of fact we would have been near that day now, but for the fact that we had some time lag due to our connection with the West African Institute, and now that we have broken

away from them it should be easier for us to march forward in this country.

The collection of information will inevitably take a long time, since firm conclusions can only be based on research over many seasons, but I am sure it will be found here, as it has been found in other countries, to be well worth it in the long run.

I have been speaking mainly with sea fisheries in mind. But we are also, of course, concerning ourselves with inland fisheries in rivers and lagoons and with the breeding of fish in ponds and reservoirs. I am particularly anxious that the work which has been started under the auspices of the West African Fisheries Research Institute at Birnin Kebbi in Sokoto Province, should be continued, as it may prove of great value throughout the Northern Region; and the taking over of the station at Birnin Kebbi is even now under discussion both with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Northern Regional Government.

The Federal Fisheries Service is, of course, primarily concerned with research. It is their job to find the answers and to pass the information on to the Regional Governments with whom the responsibility for practical application lies. I am happy to say that there is the closest co-operation between the Chief Fisheries Officer and the Regional Fisheries Officers, and the work of the Federal and Regional Departments is co-ordinated through the Technical Committee of the Council of Natural Resources.

Lagos, is of course, in a special position and it may be found desirable for the Federal Fisheries Service to assume some responsibility for development work in Lagos instead of simply for research. This will be worked out in detail with the authorities concerned.

It will also be necessary to co-ordinate our policies with other Ministries, for example, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, since I do not think it would be over optimistic to contemplate the possibility of a periodical surplus of fish arising from the introduction of improved fishing methods, and this would raise questions of storage and processing.

Finally, we must give some thought to the prevention of over-fishing. Honourable Members may think that here I am being more optimistic still, but experience elsewhere has

shown that over-fishing can be a very real danger indeed. In the United Kingdom, for example, a new type of trawling gear was introduced which, although it cost more money, pleased the fisherman very much because it caught more fish—to start with. But, after a few seasons, the fishermen found that their catches were decreasing until they reached the point where, despite more expensive equipment, they were catching no more fish than they had done before its introduction. Had there been controlled fishing the catch would have gone up and up and would have stayed there. This is an example of the problems which will have to be watched carefully when new fishing methods are introduced.

The White Paper now before the House sets out the general lines along which it is proposed to develop and expand the Federal Fisheries Service. As soon as the House has approved the general policy, detailed estimates of the cost of the new establishment will be prepared in consultation with my hon. Friend, the Financial Secretary, and will, I hope, be brought before the House at its next Session.

**Several hon. Members:** Next year? Why not sooner?

**The Minister of Research and Information:** Well I cannot spend any money without the approval of this House; if you are ready to give me a blank cheque, I do not mind going forward.

The detailed estimates will be prepared within the framework of the Economic Programme. Hon Members will recall that in that Programme £137,000 has been earmarked for capital expenditure during the period 1955-60 and £37,000 for recurrent expenditure.

Sir, Nigeria simply cannot afford to neglect its fisheries. There is throughout the country a serious shortage of protein in the people's diet; we need more fish, and we need to spend less on importing fish from abroad. I am confident, therefore, that this honourable House will support the policy and proposals set out in the White Paper.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, in seconding the Motion, I just have a few remarks to make, and in doing so, I hope Sir, that the Minister of Research and Information

will soon introduce the Fishing Industry, in order to give something to fishers of men to do instead of fishing for our boys in Lagos.

Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief S. L. Akintola** (Oshun West): It is a pity that a fishless speech should have taken as long a time as the speech of the Minister of Research and Information. It is a very serious matter and those who know the history of the Fisheries Department will agree with me that if there has been anything ever wasteful in the activities of our Government, it is what we are doing with Fisheries. I would not put this at the door of the present Minister, whose responsibility it is; I think the whole policy has been wrong at the initial stages and something must be done to put things right.

What really is the reason for the existence, for the creation of this Department? Is it merely to conduct abstract research as such, which may produce nothing, or is it to assist in producing fish? It is not very clear. I would like the Minister to realise one thing, that fish cannot be found within batches of files and you cannot find them in office desks. Where do you find them? I am sure that Members will assist the Minister and the Minister will assist his own staff, if we direct him as to the whereabouts of the fish he is talking about. *(Laughter).*

If you examine our Estimates, in 1955-56 we spent £29,035 on this Department, and without any fish. 1956-57 we scaled down a bit; we spent £22,640 and also no fish. For the next financial year we are spending £21,240—no fish. Plenty of research, search, search, research and research, I agree, but what is more important—no fish. I would like the Minister to give us an assurance that this thing will not end merely in research.

How far, as the result of our research, have we assisted any real fishermen? They are still busy on the beaches and on our rivers catching the fish, but without any assistance whatever from our Fisheries Department. Why cannot we devise some other means of giving assistance to these people? If you are interested, you will find that there are some fishing launches, even in Lagos, and some along the Creek, as some hon. Members here will bear me out, but these are the people who

are really engaged in the business of catching fish. What do we do in our Department of Fisheries? Long tape, red tape, long talk, fishy speeches, like the Minister's speech here; we do nothing to assist them. I feel that the time has come for us to go to the aid of those who are doing this real business.

In the speech of the Minister, I notice that warning has been sounded in this particular respect and I do not know how far we have heeded that warning. Experts from the Department of Fisheries have already foretold, time without number, that there are no more fish in our waters. They said that a few years ago; in spite of that we still get them. Are they experts or in experts; are they blind? They cannot see under water, that is true, but I would like the Minister to take particular note of what some experts have said about the fish in our sea and in our inland waterways. If it is true, what are we going to do about it?

I invite the attention of hon. Members to the often referred to report of the International Bank Mission. In their report it says that the need and demand for fish is fast increasing, whilst stocks are being progressively depleted. High priority should be given by the Government to measures for a substantial increase of fish production. The Mission recommends an effective enforcement of more adequate rules, the ban on the use of poison in particular, expansion of staff for development of the regulation of fish (the present staff of eight for the entire country being inadequate to carry out the necessary investigation and final operations), and to produce improvement in existing fish; establishment of a central research and demonstration unit, to be responsible for research work for all of Nigeria.

Well, that is what we are doing, but how do we do it, that is my point. You would establish a Department of Research Station for this particular activity, the very site is invariably wrong, you put it in a corner, where those who are really doing business cannot easily get access to it. I feel that if what has been stated here is correct, we have not done enough to preserve our fish. This Report has been published at least about four years ago; no legislation has ever been brought to this House to regulate fishing, not one has ever been brought here. The Department of Fisheries has been created, I do not know when now—it is not within the last ten years—

and up till to-day we have not got anything productive or anything creative from this particular department.

By next year, either this proposal will be put into operation, or we put an end to this Department completely. The fault is not that of the West African Institute of Research alone, the fault is also ours. I remember the time when the Nigerian Government bought some trawlers. The older Members of our Legislature may remember we spent a lot of money on equipping these trawlers. What have we got out of it? Nothing but fishless speeches. I feel that this is very wasteful and I will appeal particularly to the Minister, that by next year, when our Estimates will come up again, we would like a full Report on what this particular branch of the Government is doing. I will also submit that proposal to the Minister, to consider a suggestion which will assist us in producing more fish. Why cannot we start a system of financial assistance for the fishermen in particular? All those things are to recommend, which may be good, which may assist in producing fish, but if the people cannot afford them, what happens? That is the end of it. So, if we are submitting a White Paper, I say a real White Paper, a White Paper which will be much whiter than this one, you will be passing a financial proposal which will contain, in clear terms, the type of assistance which you are going to give to the real fishermen.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, with due apologies to the last speaker, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, it is understandable that people should get impatient with this Department, because of the lack of results. But I would like also to examine the other side, and to realise that, while we must ginger up this Department to produce results, we must, at the same time, encourage them in the problems of research, because Sir, I find that it is impossible to go forward without testing the ground. It is when you keep testing and you produce no results, that the public gets impatient.

We have had a concrete suggestion about financial aid to fishermen. I would also add another. A short while ago, general enthusiasm in the country was aroused in our fish culture. Almost every community in the rural areas were enthused when they heard that the Government was going to do some—

thing about encouraging fish culture in schools; even schools took it up, and I know of rural areas who applied to the Regional Fisheries Officers to aid them in these things, maybe in conjunction with other Regional Officers, because I think they, along with you, can produce this result much quicker. While you are doing your researches, request them to pay more attention to these rural areas where fish culture is in great demand.

That is something. I think in the villages you find that long before such Departments ever come they have their local ponds in which they fish every year. They have their own regulations. If some of the regulations that you are going to make are going to assist them to fish better, I think you will find less complaints in the House when you report next Sitting.

Sir, I think the proposals here, quite apart from the legacy of the past which has not been very bright, are quite sound. They are sound provided that those who put them down here—and that is the great “but”—will pursue them energetically. A Department of Research is not bound to produce quick results but it does not mean they must not make progress. Unless we are getting somewhere, then of course people who are very practical and much down to earth will always find fault with the Department. But it is not our intention to kill this Department. For, after all, I do not think the fishing industry in Great Britain—and I think the people of Great Britain are among the greatest fish-eaters short of the Scandinavian countries.

**An hon. Member :** Are you sure?

**Chief T. T. Solaru :** Yes, they are great fish-eaters if you do not know. But for their fishing industry, I do not know where they could have been during the last war when all their supplies of meat were nearly cut off by submarines. But their Department of Fisheries took the matter urgently because their stomachs are concerned, the livelihood of their own countrymen is at stake, and they worked heart and soul. Now, that is what we are asking. What the Fisheries Department in Great Britain is doing to conserve food supplies and its varieties, that is what we are asking you to do for us in this country. If you do not do it half-heartedly, there is no

reason to complain provided we see that you are getting down to the work.

I find, Sir, that in the provisions made here, equipment, fishing gear, preservation of catches, all these things are necessary. Because, after all, not all the parts of the country are blessed with water and lagoons and rivers in which fish abound, but nevertheless fish is acceptable in every part of the country and problems of preservation and distribution are very relevant to a large and variegated country like Nigeria. Therefore, the sooner you can do this and produce better results than the ordinary fishermen are doing, the better. People who are bringing down to us from Lake Chad area smoked fish, if you can do something to assist them even while you are conducting your necessary research, the better for everybody and for your Department.

Mr Speaker, I support.

**Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this White Paper, I would like to make my observation by referring to paragraph 8 (d) where it says about economics—“An investigation will be made into the running costs of various types of motor fishing craft, with the object of providing basic statistics to fishermen who may wish to purchase large or medium-sized motor fishing vessels.”

In my opinion, Sir, this Department has been a means of waste to this country. During the research many years ago, there has never been anything productive, and tomorrow we are not hoping to get any. I am wishing, Sir, that instead of investing this large sum of money into this fisheries business, such money should be put into a loans board where fishermen will have the loans to improve their way of fishing.

**The Minister of Research and Information (Chief Kolawole Balogun) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I should begin by saying that I am very grateful to my hon. Friend, Chief Solaru, for really telling this House in very clear terms the nature of our own responsibility in this matter. I think, Sir, that the House will bear with me at any time we are discussing research problems, because it is not a thing which I can take from my pocket and put on the table. If I may say so, Mr Speaker, we who are working in this type of thing are not quite as fortunate, for instance, as my hon. Friend the Minister of Communications and

Aviation who can bring before you and say, “Here is your post office and here is your telephone”, but at the same time I must say this. (Interruption).

Mr Speaker, if I may say so, Members of this hon. House are also ambassadors to explain difficult problems and I would like them to give me a hearing on this matter.

Sir, on the question of research, I think we have to come to a unified policy on this matter. So long as we bring a programme before you and, as Chief Solaru says, we give evidence that we are going to pursue this programme with vigour, I think you will have to bear with us because except we take a decision and cancel all research programmes in this country then it would appear that we are going to get into trouble every now and again.

You cannot do research and give out your results overnight. And, what is more, you may not even be in a position to publicise your results because those who are making use of your results are there and may not even give credit to you. For instance, Mr Speaker, all the work we are doing on fisheries research is passed on to Regional Governments and except Regional Governments are coming to pay us compliments, Members of this House may not know that we are doing anything at all. But we are doing a lot and we are passing out our results to the Regional Governments.

One or two matters have been mentioned. For instance, I think the hon. J. C. Obande said that the money being spent on research on fisheries should be given to the Development Board. It is the duty of the Regional Government—and I think some of them are doing it—to give loans and to give all sorts of encouragement to fishermen. If I may say so, and you will agree with me, constitutionally that is not within our own province here. Our own duty is to give as much as is stated in this White Paper, and I will read, Sir, with your permission—“Broadly speaking, the aim of fisheries research is to acquire knowledge whereby the optimum steady yield from a fishery may be obtained and whereby new fisheries may be discovered, thus opening up fresh sources of supply to vessels around our coasts.”

I think that that one sentence actually sums up the work of the Federal Fisheries Research and we do not want to encroach into the field

of other people. We don't want to get into trouble with Regional Governments with whom we are working quite harmoniously now. And I want to give this assurance to this House which has been requested by my good Friend, Chief Solaru, that the people who are working with me on this thing are going to give all enthusiasm to see that this White Paper is properly carried out. (Cheers)

Before I sit down, Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition raised a point about what benefit has been derived from this Department all these years. I don't think that in one sitting like this we can enumerate the amount of benefit which has been received. But I want to say this, that the fishermen have seen that the annual yield has increased by as much as £300,000 worth every year. If you ask them they will tell you so.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope that, as I said before, the House will bear with me on this matter. They should give us a chance, many years, for the Federal Fishing Service, and I am quite sure that when these years have elapsed and you have given us your confidence, you will have many, many more fish on your tables.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House approves the policy set out in the Government White Paper on the Federal Fisheries Service.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Dr. the hon. K. O. Mbadiwe) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper for to-day, That this House approves the policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the development of telecommunications within Nigeria as set out in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957.

My expert adviser on voice culture and public speaking informed me that when the House is getting tired the best way is to make a short introduction of the Paper concerned and let people speak for themselves. (Hear, Hear). That is the advice of the hon. Minister of Transport and I would therefore like to take his advice. For that reason I will say, Sir, that here is the White Paper before the House, and the cost of the projects within it, will be about £6 million. I have shown in that White Paper the towns that will be affected and

the towns which will derive some benefit from the proposals contained therein, in accordance with the money which you have given me. We have done this in order to give you a clear picture. It is better for you to know where you are going, and it is better for you to know what our limitations are. That is the object of this White Paper, and Mr Speaker, I now beg to move. (*Applause*).

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr L. P. Ojukwu** (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, I would like to be cautious in dealing with this White Paper presented by the Minister of Communications and Aviation. He is a first-class politician and a diplomat. I would like first of all to analyse what he says in the second paragraph of this Paper, which reads: "The details of development set out in this paper are based on the anticipated provision of the maximum amount of development capital."

Then, Sir, I would like to refer the House, with your permission, to Sessional Paper No. 4, page 8, where he gives us the estimate for work to be carried out within the period of 1956-57. In Annexure 5 of that Paper he gives us what he proposes to do in 1957-58, and in Annexure 6, he gives us what it is proposed to do in 1958-60.

Now according to the White Paper on telecommunications, paragraph 15 reads: "Funds will be provided under the present Economic Programme for the following major development..." he didn't commit himself. We know we have 1956-57 but he didn't say which. Then paragraph 17 reads: "Funds will be provided under the present Economic Programme for the following development..." He didn't commit himself there, either. We know we have 1957-58 but he didn't say which.

Then turn to paragraph 19 which reads: "Funds will be provided under the present Economic Programme for the following telephone service development". He didn't say 1958-60. Now what I am saying is that the Minister of Communications and Aviation is a first-class politician and a diplomat. He brings this Paper out and what he expects me to tell my constituents when I get home, I don't know.

I am going to read the same thing, and perhaps if I have a clever man there he is going to stand up and say, "Well, what are we going to have in 1956-57?" I won't say it all again: he might ask, what are we going to have in 1957-58?—nothing, and for 1959-60?—nothing! Then the Minister is coming and saying "I have warned you: I have told you that these details are out of what you voted in 1955, that is £16 million to £25 million, out of that you approved only £10½ million to £13 million, and out of that you agree that only £4½ million should be spent, therefore all these details I have given you, I am not going to fulfil it because there is no money."

Now, what I want to ask the Minister is, what are we going to tell our constituents when we get home? We are not going to show them all these details, and all these lines that you have drawn here. He is a diplomat and everybody will go away and say that our gigantic and energetic Minister of Communications and Aviation has done this and done that. But what has he done? The £4½ million already you said you have had is what you spent for giving officials telephones. I mean telephones for Senior Service staff who have three or four telephones at once, but the Lagos Chamber of Commerce who want telephones for the ships, for the buoys, for the Customs and Apapa Wharf in the new offices there, none of them have telephones, and yet you say, "Well, there has been £4½ million spent on that. Even though that £4½ million was spent exclusively for Government officials, for Government offices which are not productive, who don't pay anything, those who want to pay for telephones are not given them; and when we jump on you, you say, "Well, the money was provided," and later on the Financial Secretary felt that he had not got sufficient money for us. Well, what do you want? Are you asking us to approve the whole money? I don't see what I am going to tell my people when I get home.

Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano Urban Area): Mr Chairman, Sir, my remarks will be very brief indeed. (*Applause*). £6 million is going to be spent, but, Sir, unless the Minister is up and doing—I know that he is a policy maker and the execution of his policy is the responsibility of his staff—things may not go so well with the public. He, therefore, should consider this point and instruct his staff, particularly in the Northern part of Nigeria, to see to it that we

natives of the country are treated as patricians and not plebeians.

What happens, Sir, is this. To-day as far as telephone services are concerned in Kano, Kaduna, Zaria, Aba and in many other parts of the country, this matter is just a subject on paper to us. We apply for telephones but we are not given them. Other people apply for them and are given them. As the hon. Ojukwu has said, they only go to Government offices. We would like these telephones that you say you are giving out, to come to us. We are the patricians—the Syrians are not supposed to be the patricians of this country, and we the plebeians. Change the policy, please, tomorrow.

**Mr Ayo Rosiji** (Egba East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that first of all I should acknowledge the efficiency with which the V.H.F. installations are working. It is gratifying to notice that if I book a telephone call to Enugu from Lagos, I can get Enugu within five minutes. That is a thing which never happened in this country before, and we are duly grateful to the Government for making this possible. (*Applause*). But the point is that the Government is concentrating only on a few places: we want amenities to be distributed evenly in the country. I have had occasion once, Sir, to write personally to the Minister of Communications and Aviation in respect of postal services for my constituency.

**An hon. Member**: Where?

**Mr Rosiji**: In Owode.

The post office that we asked for was not given; neither was a sub-post office allowed. But in this particular area, whenever I am here I am completely out of touch with the people. I cannot send telegrams there; I cannot send any telephone message to the people in the place, and there are many people who are doing good business in kolanuts. It is the centre of the kolanut trade.

If these services are provided, they will bring in revenue for the Government. The Government should not fight shy of this. The possibilities are great in these places. Please give us telephones in these places. The line from Lagos via Iperu to Ibadan can be extended to Ajura or Owode or you bring a line from Abeokuta, 25 miles away, and it can be extended to Owode. Similarly, the line from Lagos can be extended to Ajegun and Obafemi.

It is not just playing politics. The point is that the needs of commerce in this country are

suffering. The telephone line from Lagos to Enugu is used for politics and administration but what keeps politics and administration going is business. Provide us with these lines in the places where business is done and you will get your administration running very smoothly.

This White Paper is ambiguous and is unacceptable. The point which was made earlier by hon. Ojukwu is vital. There is no mention here of anywhere in Abeokuta Province except in Abeokuta. What we want is for you to put something definite on paper: this year to that year we are going to do such and such in Yola, and such and such in Ikorodu. That is what we want and not just put anything up and leave us to keep wondering.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr Speaker**: I do really think that Members might at any rate maintain enough quiet for me to be heard when I call on Members. Mr Abii.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri): Mr Speaker, I thank you very much.

It is important to praise the Minister. It is also important to tell the Minister that things are not very well as they seem. I first of all will reply to the hon. L. P. Ojukwu that I think the Minister had answered his question. I think No. (1) will come before No. (2) and No. (3) before No. (4). In that case, I believe that he means in page 3 by giving construction of main automatic exchanges at Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu, Oshogbo, Benin, Kano, Zaria, Aba, Onitsha, Ilorin, Jos and Ife, goes to show that that line will be first completed before he goes to No. (2). But that is not where my main remark is fixed.

My remark is on telephones. It is astonishing that in one of the Papers supplied to Members of this House at this sitting, Doctors have pointed out that in some places where they are living with some Secretary-Typists, preference of telephone is given to these Secretary-Typists; the Doctors have no telephone; that before Doctors can get to emergency, an ambulance will come to meet them, which confirms what hon. Members have referred to: that the telephone has not been given to people who deserve it.

The hon. Member, my friend Maitama Sule, said that patricians and their counterparts had sometimes to ration their privileges. I think in this country to-day importance has been



given too much to officials and the natives who want the benefit of these amenities do not get them.

I have an example to give. Since four days, I have been trying to get No. 30 Owerri, and unfortunately this No. 30 goes to one of the important Ministers in this Federation. They say that it is temporarily out of use. For four days I have not got to that line. That shows that if the installation is going to be useless, the best thing is to reverse the expenditure to another item. I do not believe that we are getting the proper use of these telephones.

And that brings me to another thing. The White Paper, page 10, has outlined some improvements in Owerri. It says that there will be a connection of telephone at Ikedu. I would like hon. Members to know that the estimate for this post office had been there for the past five or six years. The post office has not gone to tender yet, and it is put down that there will be a connection of telephone. When will that be? That goes to support hon. Ojukwu. The same thing with Oguta and the same thing with Ahoada.

My Minister, I would like you to examine this. I want the line to connect Owerri and Onitsha. Do not allow the Owerri line to go through Aba. Aba is already congested. If you want Owerri to go through Aba, all the time, it will then struggle for a way to Enugu and then through all the Region before it goes to Lagos. Would you be kind enough to consider it necessary to get Owerri and Orlu connected to Onitsha, then we can cross up to Ibadan and get to Lagos. Owerri to Onitsha is only 61 miles.

Several hon. Members : Time ! Time !

Mr Abii : For the sake of hon. Members, I support the White Paper.

Mr Speaker : To save all this confusion, I believe the last Motion which it is very important to get to, is unopposed? It can therefore be started at or just after a quarter to six under Standing Order 1. We can therefore finish this Motion at a quarter to six and then take the other one.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Dr K. O. Mbadiwe) : Mr Speaker, I have listened to the criticisms on this White Paper and I will say that the Member who spoke on it first, Mr L. P. Ojukwu, is an astute businessman, very shrewd one, and a

shrewd business person is far better equipped than a diplomat who has to smile when it is not necessary to smile or when he should be weeping, just to keep up the tempo of things. But the businessman will tell you when he wants to smile and when he wants to weep. So that Mr Ojukwu's observation will be taken into consideration.

But I have to tell him that in the field of engineering, it is not as easy as in the field of building a house. In building a house, you require cement, you know how to mix it and you get corrugated iron sheets and put it up and that is all there is to it.

But when you come to engineering to quote the exact timing, the data year by year, when you know that one problem in engineering may hold you up and I do not want to come to this House and give an impression of what I am not able to do. But I have given you those things I will do between now and 1960. Anyway I am asking my expert adviser—the real official adviser—to see whether we can possibly channel these into periods of operation and the only fear is that if I give you a timing you will not even be sympathetic when the engineering or scientific data fails. You will hold me responsible. But if you will give me the assurance that you will be sympathetic if I do not meet that timing I will ask my Ministry to give you the data during the next Session, breaking this into periods of operation.

I want to say that the question of telephone installation has become a great concern not only to the Members of this Legislature but also to the people that I have met during my tour. Many towns have called this to my notice and I want to assure the hon. Member that my department is doing all that lies within its power to cope with the situation. We cannot change of model of thirty or thirty-five years by the stroke of the pen. It will take time. We have endeavoured to set ourselves a goal. Last year we set a goal of installing three thousand telephones which we have achieved. This year we are now arranging a new set of things. We are going to have ten teams who are engineering teams. They are going to go to all the sections; they will be divided territorially.

In other words, they will operate throughout the entire country to execute the plan before the House. Each team will instal exchange

equipment in exchange buildings; put in cables and wires; and will put in trunk lines. At the same time I have given a minor (in fact a major) self-government to the Regions as far as having their own telephone allocation committees.

Chief S. L. Akitola (Oshun West) : Regional self-government?

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : Yes, in telephones. Because they are better equipped to tell us what people in their own locations will be entitled to priority in telephones. But I will not say because that is done I will no longer look into the reports which you make. I will now make it clear that the telephone allocation committees should see to it that preference is given to businessmen who most pay for these telephones. At present the policy is sixty per cent installation for business and private telephones and forty per cent for Government. Now that you have said it is too much, I am referring this matter back to be reviewed.

Mr Speaker, I plan if necessary because of the dire demand of the Members of this House for telephone installation, to have (if necessary) a person who will be known as telephone expeditor (*Applause*) to know what installations may be made.

I move that the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the policy proposed by the Government of the Federation for the development of telecommunications within Nigeria as set out in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957.

Mr Speaker : I have to interrupt business; unopposed business can still be taken.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL FUNDS

The Minister of Social Services (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper : That this House approves the expenditure from the Capital Development Fund of £42,177 to meet the net deficit on the University College Hospital's recurrent account in the year 1955-56.

The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey) : I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House approves the expenditure from the Capital Development Fund of £42,177 to meet the net deficit on the University College Hospital's recurrent account in the year 1955-56.

#### Adjournment

The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey) : Sir, I beg to move, That this House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Sir, I beg to second.

Mr L. A. Lawal (Ibadan East) : Mr Speaker, I wish to bring to the Floor of this House a matter of national importance. Before I do so, Sir, I would like to pay tribute to the Minister of Social Services for the considerable success achieved by his Ministry within the short time he took over the Ministry.

I am from Ibadan and, in fairness to the Minister, the achievement of his Ministry in that city beggars description. At Ibadan we have the University College and we have the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. Without doubt like William Pitt of the Seven Years' War, members of the public are now feeling the master-hand of the Minister of Social Services and they are responding.

While I doff my hat in respect to the Minister I would like to appeal to him to please take a step further by considering the possibility of the establishment of a School of Journalism in Nigeria. We would like this institute to be conveniently attached to the University College, Ibadan, where our young men and women will have the opportunity to undergo such training as would stand them in good stead, insofar as their career is concerned.

In bringing this matter before this House I would not like anybody to suggest that I am trying to curry favour with members of the Press. This is a matter which transcends party politics and members of the public themselves have occasionally called for an institution of this kind. I am always in sympathy with members of the public on a major issue of this nature and I feel called upon to bring this matter to the Floor of the House, and I think it will meet with the support of all sides.

Sir, I wish to remark that this Government has carved a name for itself in the initiation of realistic projects : such as University College and the University Teaching Hospital at Ibadan. This suggested matter would be a welcome complement to the former.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Minister of Social Services (Mr Aja Niwachuku) : I have to thank the hon. Mr Lawal for the very nice things he has said about me. But I have to say that the establishment of a School of Journalism at, or attached to, the University College is a matter for the College Authorities to consider. This is not the first time that an attempt has been made to dictate to the University College, Ibadan and, as I said in the debate on the motion for the Establishment of a Chair of Higher Arabic Studies on the 6th March, 1956, it is not the duty of this House or the Council of Ministers to tell the College authorities what they should do or what subjects should be studied at the College. (*Hear, hear*).

In the United Kingdom, all Universities have built up a tradition of academic freedom. The Universities in United Kingdom, like the University College, Ibadan, are financed largely by Government grants. The Government in Britain does not however, interfere in any way with the organisation or work of the Universities.

The University College, Ibadan, has not only been built up on the same liberal conceptions but is, in a very real sense, a part of one of the British Universities in that it is in "special relationship" with London University and the degrees taken at Ibadan are *internal* London degrees.

This whole question of what courses should be taken or what Institutes should be established at Ibadan is an academic matter and one which can only be decided by the College Council, an autonomous body, after such consultations as it may deem desirable.

As Members are already aware a visitation has recently been at Ibadan and the report of its members is now awaited. The report will deal with the College development in the next quinquennium. It would be wrong for me at this stage to be drawn into any rash promise which might well prove to be contrary to the best interests of our growing University College.

In conclusion I would like to point out that the suggestion of the Honourable Member is unprecedented as journalism is not an "academic" subject and nowhere is it a subject which is taught at a University.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like the Government to consider the possibility of having a police ambulance in Lagos. The main purpose of this, Sir, is to facilitate the removal of motor accident victims when an accident has occurred.

In Lagos, which is Federal territory and a first-class City, it sometimes takes the ambulance from the Creek Hospital or the General Hospital about two hours before arriving at the *locus in quo* and before that time the victim might have died ; so I am appealing to the Government, Sir, to look into this matter. Very often, Sir, this delay in the ambulances arrival causes an obstruction in the flow of traffic because people gather round just to see what is going on.

The Chief Secretary of the Federation (Sir Ralph Grey) : The hon. Member gave me notice that he would raise this matter and I think the best answer I can give him is that I shall consult with my Colleague, the Minister of Social Services, because there is already an ambulance service in Lagos and, if it is only a question of how best to get on to the *locus in quo*, I think it would be better to expedite the existing ambulances, rather than to start a rival service. But I shall undertake to discuss it with the Minister of Social Services and see if we can effect some improvement.

Mr Speaker : Mr Akande has a subject to raise ?

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, . . . (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : I am told that there is no answer ready for Mr Akande so I cannot allow him to develop his subject. Mr Ebea, I believe, has a subject ?

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion on the Adjournment and, at the same time, to raise a matter.

It is a matter, Sir, which relates to the Lagos Amateur Football Association and I would ask the Minister of Labour and Welfare to make a statement—in fact, I think I had better put it in the form of a question and ask the hon. Minister: whether he is aware of the disruption and

various accusations of financial maladministration threatening the foundation of the Lagos Amateur Football Association ? And, in view of the popularity of soccer among the community, and the heavy collection of public money regularly made at the gates, what action is the Minister taking to clear the air before the football season sets in ?

The Minister of Labour and Welfare (Chief F. S. Okotic-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the issue raised by the hon. Member and I have also received petitions in connection therewith. But, Sir, I understand that, in accordance with the constitution of the Association, certain inquiries have been made and, until the results of those inquiries are known—or known to me—it would be superfluous for me to interfere.

But I can assure the hon. Member that, whenever I think it necessary for me to interfere in the matter, I shall do so within the province of my constitutional position.

Chief S. L. Akintola rose in his place.

Mr Speaker : I do not know what Chief Akintola wishes to talk about ?

Chief S. L. Akintola (Oshun West) : Well, I would just like to mention something which I know will receive the approval of the whole House but something which it may not have been prudent for me to have mentioned to the Speaker previously and that is : this Session has been a most momentous one in this House and it has proved a tremendous success and we owe that success, in a large measure, to the way that the Speaker of this House has conducted the business. (*Loud applause*).

I believe that I shall be expressing the sentiments of all sides of the House if I say we want to place on record our profound appreciation of the services that the Speaker renders to this hon. House and with his name I would associate the Clerk of the House and the entire staff of this hon. House.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to support the last speaker wholeheartedly. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker : That is a nice way to go away on your holidays—but it is very disorderly ! Thank you so much.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at two minutes to six o'clock sine die, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of Tuesday, 26th March, 1957.

## QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Question—

W.52. M. Abdullahi, Magajin Musawa asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

How soon wired radio distribution services will be extended to rural areas.

Answer—

The Chief Secretary of the Federation : I would refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave on the 26th March to Question No. W.149 (Official Report, column 1491).

Question—

W.58. Alhaji Muhammadu, Sarkin Burmi Moriki asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will give the number of Nigerian Medical, Health, and Education Officers and Engineers respectively appointed by the Central or Federal Government in the period 1953-57, and the number of Nigerian women appointed as Nursing Sisters in the same period.

Answer—

The Chief Secretary of the Federation : The numbers of Nigerian Officers in each category appointed by the Central or Federal Government in the period 1953-57 are as follows :—

Medical Officers	..	..	27
Health Superintendents	..	..	1
Health Sisters	..	..	1
Nursing Superintendents	..	..	3
Nursing Sisters	..	..	21
Education Officers	..	..	13
Engineers	..	..	21

Of the twenty-one Engineers, thirteen were appointed to the Public Works Department and eight (including one re-engaged pensioner) were appointed to the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Question—

W.95. Mr J. A. Effiong asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state how many Africans in the Nigeria Police Force are now serving in the senior ranks and if he will furnish a list of their names and their provinces of origin.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** There are 72 African superior police officers in the Nigeria Police Force, including one supernumerary, of whom 70 are Nigerians.

I am sending the hon. Member particulars of their names and provinces of origin, or countries of origin in respect of the two who are not Nigerians.

*Question—*

**W.102. Mr L. A. Ning** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

In view of the increase in Police cases, and the opening up of important markets in Wum Division and Nkambe Division, if he will consider increasing the number of police constables in these Divisions.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** I am aware that increases in the establishment of the Nigeria Police Force at Wum and Nkambe are desirable, and the claims of these places will be carefully considered when Draft Estimates for 1958-59 are being prepared. The hon. Member will have seen, however, from the explanatory memorandum to Head 25, Police, of the Draft Estimates 1957-58, that heavy expenditure is likely to be necessary to implement Phase II of the Police re-organisation plan, and the resources available for normal expansion will be limited.

*Question—*

**W.107. Mr L. A. Ning** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware that the police stations in Wum and Nkambe Divisions are not well equipped with stationery ; and if he will remedy this ?

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Towards the end of 1956 there was a temporary shortage of stationery at the police stations at Wum and Nkambe (which I regret) but it was remedied by the beginning of this year.

*Question—*

**W.108. Mr F. E. Ofor** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he is aware of the crime wave in Okigwi Division, particularly the increase in crimes punishable with death ; and if he will post an Assistant Superintendent of Police to Okigwi to avoid the inconvenience and delay entailed in requesting for instructions in criminal matters from Umuahia-Ibeku.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Criminal statistics for the period 1st April, 1954, to 22nd March, 1957, show that the total value of crime in Okigwi Division has decreased in the past twelve months and that there has been no significant rise in the number of capital offences.

I agree, however, that more police are required in this area, and there is provision in the 1957-58 Estimates for a detachment of the Nigeria Police Force to be stationed at Umu Duru. This will materially assist in combating crime, but I am afraid it will still be necessary to refer cases to Umuahia-Ibeku. Delays should be reduced when an officer is available to fill a post in the Criminal Investigation Department at Umuahia which is at present vacant.

*Question—*

**W.119. Mr T. A. Ajayi** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state the present strength of the Nigerian Naval Force ; and what proposals he has for its expansion.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Sir, the present vessels which were transferred from the old Marine to the Nigerian Naval Force on the 1st April, 1956, when it came into existence, are shown in Appendix A to Sessional Paper No 6 of 1956 on the establishment of the Force.

As regards proposals for its expansion, I made a statement to the House in Committee of Supply on March 23rd, when Head 604 of the Estimates—Part 1, Economic Programme, sub-head 4, Defence—was being considered, about the result of my consultations with Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Robson, the Commander-in-Chief, who recently paid a visit to Lagos and the Naval Depot at Apapa. The Admiral expressed himself satisfied with the

site and the work being done at the Depot and advised that the best form of initial training is training ashore. He recognised our need to get, as quickly as possible, naval craft in which more advanced training can be done, and which will be of such a type that Nigerians will be able to take pride and satisfaction in them, and that will make a useful contribution to defence.

Having seen our coasts and its problems, however, the Admiral did not advise that we should acquire Seaward Defence Boats which was the Government's original intention, but suggested that Government should acquire mine sweeping craft to begin with. Provision of £285,000 has been made accordingly under a new item of expenditure under sub-head 4 of Head 605, to enable orders to be placed immediately for warships, guns and ammunition, and for the construction of a small ammunition magazine. But I would like to emphasise that this is only a token provision and that by the end of the Economic Programme the Nigerian Naval Force would require capital expenditure of at least £1½ million in excess of the original provision of £50,000 for the period ending 1959-60.

All naval craft are very expensive. As I have stated in this House before, a cruiser not dissimilar to the *Ceylon* which was recently here, has recently re-fitted at the cost of £4 million and lent to the New Zealand Navy. Such a ship would cost about £10 million to build. It is obvious therefore that Nigeria cannot afford many of these just yet, but Government is hoping to get from the Admiralty, through the good offices of the Admiral, ships that could be obtained on free loan or on terms suited to our purse. I hope it would be possible to lay before the House at its next meeting full details of the proposals which may be agreed with the United Kingdom Government.

*Question—*

**W.129. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will give the number of persons in Nigeria who applied to sit for the Army Entrance Examination (Nos. 1-7) to the Regular Officers' Special Training School at Accra, of these the number who actually sat for the examination, and the number who failed at

the interview before the District Selection Board.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The exact number of candidates who applied to take the Army Entrance Examinations Nos. 1-7 is not known but the number of applicants who sat for the examinations is 240 and the number of those who passed is 86. Of the 86, the number of applicants who failed or did not report for the Force Selection Boards Nos. 1-7 is 46 and the number of those who proceeded to the Regular Officers' Special Training School at Accra is 40.

*Question—*

**W.130. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

If he will state how many persons from Nigeria attending the Regular Officers' Special Training School at Accra have been expelled before the completion of the courses, indicating the reasons for their expulsion.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** Four Officer cadets have been sent down from the Regular Officers' Special Training School at Accra—one for disciplinary reasons and three because they were found unsuitable for military training. The Military Adviser to the West African Governments is now the authority for discipline and, except for disciplinary reasons, all officer cadets will be allowed to complete the full course at the School before they are interviewed by the Final Selection Board.

*Question—*

**W.131. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—

How many persons from Nigeria were rejected by the Final Selection Board in connection with the courses at the Regular Officers' Special Training School at Accra, indicating why they were rejected.

*Answer—*

**The Chief Secretary of the Federation :** The number of Officer cadets who were rejected by the Final Selection Board is six. The reason for their failure is that they were found unfit for further training.

*Question—*

**W.132. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Chief Secretary of the Federation :—