



*Retained 18/8/60  
L. C. T. S.*

FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
DEBATES**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

*E. N. Amakoye  
34, Montgomery Rd.  
Ibadan. 25/2/60*

**VOLUME III**

*Session 1959-60*

Comprising Period  
5th—18th August, 1959

PRICE : FIVE SHILLINGS NET

LAGOS : FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRINTER

# FEDERAL HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of NIGERIA

## COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

His Excellency the Governor-General—Sir James Wilson Robertson, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E.  
 Prime Minister—Alhaji the Honourable Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, C.B.E.  
 Minister of Finance—Chief the Honourable F. S. Okotie-Eboh.  
 Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—Alhaji the Honourable Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E.  
 Minister of Transport—Honourable R. A. Njoku.  
 Minister of Works and Surveys—Alhaji the Honourable Muhammadu Inuwa Wada.  
 Minister of Education—Honourable Aja Nwachuku.  
 Minister of Internal Affairs, Labour and Welfare—Honourable J. M. Johnson.  
 Minister of Communications and Aviation—Chief the Honourable S. L. Akintola.  
 Minister of Health—Honourable Ayo Rosiji.  
 Minister of Research and Information—Honourable Victor Mukete.  
 Minister of Commerce and Industry—Honourable Zana Bukar Dipcharima.

## SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Sir Frederic William Metcalfe, K.C.B.

## DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honourable Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki

## PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Parliamentary Secretaries to the Prime Minister—M. Shehu Shagari, J. C. Obande, Esq.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Labour and Welfare—Chief O. Oweh.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education—D. C. Ugwu, Esq.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance—Chief H. Omo Osagie.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—I. S. Usman, Esq.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Surveys—M. Usman Sarki.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport—F. E. Offor, Esq.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health—Chief V. Duro Phillips.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Aviation—A. J. U. Ekong, Esq.  
 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Research and Information—L. S. Fonka, Esq.

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chairman
The Deputy Speaker	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mallam Hassan Yola	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr J. A. O. Akande . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Chief N. G. Yellowe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
Mr H. O. Chuku . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member
The Minister of Health	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Member





### OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr B. A. Manuwa .. .. .	Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr E. E. Nsefik .. .. .	Clerk Assistant
Mr J. O. Adeigbo .. .. .	Clerk Assistant
Mr D. S. C. Onyemelukwe .. .. .	Executive Officer
Mr W. Lee .. .. .	Editor, Official Report ( <i>Hansard</i> )
Mr C. I. Offodile .. .. .	Assistant Editor, Official Report, ( <i>Hansard</i> )
Mr H. O. Nwokoye .. .. .	Official Reporter
Mr N. B. A. Okoh .. .. .	Official Reporter
Mr E. O. Elendu .. .. .	Official Reporter
Mr V. N. Chibundu .. .. .	Official Reporter
Mr L. O. Antonio .. .. .	Official Reporter
Miss J. Borrows .. .. .	Official Reporter
Mr J. A. Dophon .. .. .	Acting Official Reporter
Mr R. Orororo .. .. .	Acting Official Reporter
Miss O. J. Turner .. .. .	Acting Official Reporter
Miss P. Stonebridge .. .. .	Acting Official Reporter
Mr E. A. Mensah, M.B.E. .. .. .	Serjeant-at-Arms.

Federal Printing  
Department

E. H. Amakoh Sr  
34, Montgomery St.  
Lagos.  
25/3/60



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Department of Chemistry  
Chicago, Ill.

Mr. J. H. ...  
...

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure to inform you that...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 5th August, 1959

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

DEATH OF A MEMBER

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I regret to have to inform the House of the death, since we last met, of Alhaji Ahmadu, Sarkin Fulani, Member for Sokoto North East and I desire, on behalf of the House, to express our sympathy at the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the hon. Member.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ROADS

Damaged Bridges and Culverts

**O.157. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when work will commence on the narrow and damaged bridges and culverts on Trunk Road A.13 between Ilorin and Ere in Kabba division.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** An engineer is at present surveying the culverts and bridges to which the hon. Member refers. When this survey has been completed as much rehabilitation as possible will be carried out within the funds available.

Accidents at Kabba

**O.158. Mr R. T. Alege** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will undertake as a matter of urgency the reconstruction of the two culverts between miles 25 and 26 from Kabba on Trunk Road A.13 in order to obviate the frequent accidents occurring on those culverts.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** I have asked for a report on the condition of the two culverts referred to by the hon. Member and, provided that major work is not involved, I shall see that they are brought up to standard.

Owerri to Port Harcourt Road

**O.159. Chief J. Mpi** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the Federal Government will take over from the Eastern Regional Government the road from Owerri to Port Harcourt.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** The Government of the Eastern Region has proposed that certain regional roads, including the regional road from Port Harcourt to Owerri, are now of national importance and should be reclassified as Federal Trunk Roads. This matter is to be discussed at the meeting of the National Economic Council later this month. The hon. Member will appreciate that it would be desirable not to anticipate these discussions.

Federal List of Contractors

**\*O.160. Mr. G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many African contractors were in categories "A", "B" and "C" of the Federal List of Contractors in 1958-59 and how many in each category were not awarded contracts during that year and for what reason.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** In 1958-59 there were 149 contractors registered in category "A" 133 in category "B", and 81 in category "C". 144 in category "A", 110 in category "B", and 70 in category "C" were not awarded contracts in 1958-59.

I am not aware of the reasons why each contractor who submitted a tender was not awarded a contract in each individual case, but in general the low proportion of contracts awarded to the number of contractors registered was due to the fact that only a small proportion of Federal works fell within the contract range of £1,000 and £10,000, while a very large number of contractors in this category are indigenous.

Tarring of Aliade Trunk Road A

**O.180. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how many miles of road have been tarred by the contractors on the 9-Mile Corner, Aliade Trunk Road A, and when the firm expects to complete the tarring.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** 50 miles. It is expected that the tarring will be completed in March, 1960.

Trees on Agbor-Asaba Road

**O.190. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will cause the oil bean trees planted along Trunk Roads A, especially those along the Agbor-Asaba road, to be felled in order to obviate some of the accidents that occur on those roads.



**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** Work is in hand, Sir, felling those trees along the Agbor-Asaba road that are dangerous to traffic. Such trees on other Federal Trunk Roads will also be felled.

Roadside trees have an aesthetic value and their shade is much appreciated by pedestrians. My object, therefore, is to remove those trees which are dangerous to traffic without depriving the public of a valuable amenity. Trees planted in recent years have been placed sufficiently far back from the road to avoid danger to traffic.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** Is the Minister of Works aware of the fact that stumps left after cutting these trees constitute a great danger and will he advise that these stumps be uprooted ?

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** In most cases where trees are felled stumps are also uprooted.

#### Omu-Aran and Iloffa Road

**O.196. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he is aware of the bad condition of the portion of Trunk Road A.13 between Omu-Aran and Iloffa, and whether he will cause drainage to be laid along that section of the road with a view to improving it.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** I have called for a report on the Omu-Aran-Iloffa Trunk Road A.13, and I shall see what improvements can be made with the maintenance fund available.

### HEALTH

#### Sahara Desert Atomic Bomb Test

**O.182. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** asked the Minister of Health what effect an atomic bomb test in the Sahara Desert may have on the health of the people of Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons, and what precautions are being taken by the Government to safeguard the health of the people in the event of such a test taking place there.

**The Minister of Health :** I greatly sympathise with the concern which has prompted the hon. Member to ask this question, but I have no information as to the precise nature of any atomic test to be undertaken in the Sahara. It is accordingly difficult for me to give a definite answer to the question.

Deleterious effects arising from atomic explosions will vary from effects which are extremely serious to effects which are of no account, according to the nature of the test, the site chosen for the test, its distance from Nigeria, and the climatic conditions at the time of, and for a period after the test. This produces an almost unlimited set of variable factors, and I could answer a question on this subject satisfactorily only if the question were framed within the conspectus of specific technical data limited to a few given sets of circumstances.

It is useless to pretend that it is practicable to take any physical precautions to safeguard the health of the people, in the event that a test took place which had highly deleterious effects. The best which can be done is the action taken already by the Government, which has been to express its rooted opposition to tests of any character taking place in the Sahara, and to make this attitude unmistakably clear on the international level, reinforcing similar protests lodged by other countries with similar apprehensions. The Federal Government continues to work to this end.

**M. Maitama Sule :** Is the Minister aware that the French Authorities have decided to carry out these tests about 900 miles away from Nigeria and, if so, what information has he been able to get from his Ministry as to the effect of this explosion 900 miles away from Nigeria ?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Will the Minister tell us what steps he has taken to get additional information on that point of view from the United Kingdom Organisation ?

**Mr Speaker :** This is a different question. The original question contains far too few facts than the Minister has already given.

**Mr C. C. E. Onoh :** Can the Minister tell the House whether there are certain categories of atomic tests not dangerous to health ?

**Mr Speaker :** That is another question.

**Dr E. O. Awduche :** In view of the satisfactory reply given will the Minister assure the House that the Government will not relent in pursuit of its policy to prevent the explosion in the Sahara ?



**Employment of Medical Officers**

**0.183. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** asked the Minister of Health whether he will consider employing more medical officers in the Federal Territory of Lagos in order to ease the congestion at the out-patient departments of the hospitals there.

**The Minister of Health :** Yes, Sir, qualified Nigerian medical practitioners are being employed in the Federal Public Service as Medical Officers as and when they return to Nigeria and apply for employment in the public service. There is an establishment for 15 Senior Specialists or Specialists and for 64 Medical Officers for employment in the Lagos Hospitals. At present there are 13 Senior Specialists or Specialists and 59 Medical Officers employed in those hospitals. There are consequently 2 vacancies for Specialists and 5 vacancies for Medical Officers. The vacancies for Medical Officers will be filled immediately suitably qualified candidates offer themselves for employment. It should be noted however that the provision of Medical Staff alone will not relieve congestion. Congestion is primarily due to lack of space. This has been remedied to some extent by the opening of the Polyclinic, and I hope congestion of the present kind will be eradicated when the Mainland General Hospital (now well advanced in construction) is open and functioning.

Increases in establishment are being proposed for next year, mainly in connexion with the new Maternity Hospital which will then be in operation.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr J. C. Obande): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a business statement for the week ending 8th August, 1959.

To-day there will be 8 Bills presented. They are :—

Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60)—  
The Minister of Finance.

Revolving Loans Fund for Industry—  
The Minister of Finance.

Statutory Corporations (Guarantee of Loans)—The Minister of Finance.

The hon. Prime Minister will also present the Immigration (Amendment) Bill and the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation will present the Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation and Lagos) (Amendment) Bill and the hon. Minister of Transport will present the Shipping and Navigation (Amendment) Bill.

The Minister of Health will present the University College Hospital (Amendment) Bill.

On Thursday 6th August there will be the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and also the Second and Third Reading of the following Bills :—

Revolving Loans Fund for Industry

Shipping and Navigation (Amendment).

On Friday 7th August the First Reading of the remaining Bills and also the Second and Third Reading of the following Bills :—

Nigerian Navy (Change of Title)

West African Examinations Council  
(Nigerian Status) (Amendment)

Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Amendment)

Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Special Application).

On Saturday there will be another business statement.

**PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS**

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1959-60)  
BILL**

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

**REVOLVING LOANS FUND FOR  
INDUSTRY BILL**

**The Minister of Finance :** *Second Reading*  
—Tomorrow.

**STATUTORY CORPORATIONS (GUARANTEE  
OF LOANS) BILL**

**The Minister of Finance :** *Second Reading*  
—Tomorrow.

**IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL**

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): *Second Reading*  
—This day.

**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT)  
BILL**

**The Prime Minister :** *Second Reading*  
—This day.



[THE PRIME MINISTER]  
no longer be necessary when undesirable people in Nigeria are being deported. I would like to tell Members of the House that the legislation in other countries does not have this provision of making it necessary for the consent of the Secretary of State to be sought and I have no doubt that the House will agree that this is in conformity with our constitutional development.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode** (Ife): There is only one point, Sir, that I like to make. Why this haste? Cannot the Government wait until October, or is the Government intending to use this Bill between now and the time this House is dissolved?

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third Time—the Prime Minister.*

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Speaker, in supporting the Third Reading of this Bill, I wish to thank the Government for the amendments and to urge that Government should make sure that those who go about buying voters' registration cards at £5 each are deported.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode has asked one question from the Prime Minister which I am sure we Members of the House will be interested to hear a reply to from the Prime Minister. Why the haste between now and 1960? Is it because the Prime Minister intends or fears that he may have to use the Bill without recourse to the Secretary of State for the Colonies? I think that an answer is required.

**The Prime Minister:** I want to assure the House that there is no intention of deporting anybody.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

REVISED EDITION (LAWS OF THE FEDERATION AND LAGOS) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation and Lagos) Ordinance 1958, be now read a second time. Under Section 8 of the Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation and Lagos) Ordinance, the Commissioner now engaged in revising the laws may reproduce in the edition which he is preparing any United Kingdom Act or any other United Kingdom Instrument. He is not, however, empowered to embody in the same reprint all the amendments to those United Kingdom Laws and Instruments. He can only reprint the amendment separately. Under our law as it is at the moment we cannot reprint the original Act or the original Instrument and incorporate in the new reprint all the subsequent amendments. It therefore follows that if you have to refer to any reprint of the United Kingdom Law or any other United Kingdom Instrument you have to refer to different Instruments. You refer to the reprint of the original law in one volume and to all the subsequent amendments in other volumes.

This is a very clumsy arrangement and I think it imposes an undue burden on all those who are engaged in the interpretation of the law.

The aim of the present amendment is to make it possible for the Commissioner to reproduce not only the original United Kingdom Law, but also to incorporate in the same reprint all the subsequent amendments. This will lead to some sort of simplification, and it will make it possible for people to refer to the same source of law without possible cause for confusion.

The present state of the law might even defeat the end of justice at times. If lawyers are too busy to refer to different Instruments,



they might rely on the original law which is reproduced here and which may be misleading, because the original law might have been substantially altered by all subsequent amendments, and it may not be easy for these amendments to be brought together when a case is being determined on the validity of a law which, on the ground of the subsequent amendment, might have completely lost its validity.

One other cause of trouble might have been the fact that if the Commissioner is not empowered to embody in the same Instrument the original law as well as the subsequent Instrument, the Commissioner may reproduce a law which, for all practical purposes, has ceased to be the law. The original law might have been so amended that it will be entirely different by the subsequent amendment. Whereas we propose that this amendment should be introduced in order to tidy up the present position and make it possible for the Commissioner to reproduce the original laws in the same volume with all the subsequent amendments which we introduce.

I am sure that this will be welcome to the House and it will be welcome to all the hon. Members who live by the law, especially my good friend, hon. Jaja Wachuku. I think that, for the purpose of tidying up the law, and making the work of the Commissioner easy, I feel that the House will have no difficulty in allowing this Bill to be passed through its second reading stage.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr J. M. Udochi** (Afenmai) : In supporting the second reading of the Bill I wish to point out to the Minister with all due respect that it would seem to have been very much belated. Last year, Mr Speaker, the principal Ordinance was passed and the Commissioner was actually brought to the country to undertake this revision. He had put in many months of hard labour and to-day the Minister is bringing up an amendment which is capable of upsetting the whole apple-cart of his past labours. I only wish that the Minister will assure us that the passing of this amendment would not delay the publication of this revised edition of our laws. It is a matter of great importance that the

country should know its precise law, and if the revision should drag on for a number of years, it would put everybody into some sort of difficulty. I only hope that this amendment does not involve a further delay of the revision.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** : That is the Secretary of the Nigerian Bar Association.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : In referring to this matter and with respect to the Secretary of the Bar Association I stand up to oppose. The Minister has not explained to us where these amendments will be incorporated. Will they be incorporated in the substantive law or will they be incorporated in the same volume as appendices? The reason is that there is a parliamentary principle involved. We feel that certain provisions there will be useful to us. We are a competent legislature and every law passed here is signed by the Clerk of the House and kept to be referred to as an authentic copy of the law. By asking this House to approve that the Revising Officer should incorporate an amendment which has been passed in the House of Commons without being passed here we are asking him to make law for this country without reference to this Legislature. Therefore we cannot allow this Bill to go through. But if the Minister tells us, Sir, that the amendment will act as a guide to judges, lawyers and legislators to know the progress that has been made in England or elsewhere in relation to that state, they can come in as Appendix not part of the substantive law. I support that. But if there is divergency it cannot be accepted; it will be infringing the Parliamentary Sovereignty of this legislature.

In other words, we have been asked by the Minister to give power to the Revising Officer to make law for the House. He does not tell us where this incorporation will come in. Will it come in in the substantive law so that it can be quoted as a law passed by this House or is it going to be an appendix?

Not only that, Sir, the law passed in England is passed under peculiar circumstances peculiar to that particular country. There is no evidence that everything that is good in England is also good in Nigeria. Therefore to take an amendment in England and set it down here as an amendment would not be right, because the same circumstances might not



[THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AVIATION]

knows all that and I am quite sure he is a better lawyer than myself. But if he will meet me at leisure I will teach him a few things about this Bill.

I know him very well and he knows much more about this amendment that we would like this House to accept. When he speaks as a lawyer he may be an embodiment of commonsense, but he has been speaking as a politician and unfortunately for him this is a job of a lawyer. I would appeal to him to cast away his toga, the political toga for a change and put on a lawyer's gown and speak as a lawyer and he will agree that this amendment is a sensible one and should be accepted by this House.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to record in no uncertain terms that I am opposed to clause 2 and that this will have the effect of authorising an extraneous body to legislate for the country by incorporating into the law what has never been passed by a competent legislature. I wish to have it recorded that if the Minister wants this *addendum* to be incorporated in the same volume and accepted as a guide to those who may be reading the substantive law that has been passed by our own legislature, I have no objection. But to allow the revising officer to do this thing in this manner is bad, absolutely bad for the future, if we are to observe the principle of parliamentary sovereignty of this legislature. I say that is an infringement and I oppose it now and will continue to oppose it no matter how convenient it is for lawyers and for myself professionally.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think in this matter that some distinction might be drawn to help in clearing the misunderstanding that has arisen. I think, Sir, that in our legislation there are certain statutes which must have automatic recognition in this country. For example statutes passed

before 1900 ; any amendment after 1900 must have to pass through this House if the sovereignty of the legislature is to be recognised. But for those statutes or laws in which we say that the laws for the time being in force in England shall apply in Nigeria, the English Acts apply to this country, any amendment passed before 1900 or after automatically becomes law in this country.

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

*Bill reported without amendment*

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

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is meet to make an observation that it has always been said—I do not know who originated it—that the law is sometimes an ass, but nobody has ever defined what lawyers are. I wish somebody would do it !

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am quite sure that if the law is an ass not many lawyers are donkeys.

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for second reading read.*

**The Minister of Health** (Hon. Ayo Rosiji) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the University College Hospital Ordinance be now read a second time. In doing so, Sir, I can do no better than to expatiate on the *Objects and Reasons* which are set out at the foot-note. The main purpose of the amendment is only to alter the composition of the Board, and to bring it into line with developments which have taken place since the Bill was passed in 1952 and since the 1954 amendment was made. One of the things which the Bill does is to increase the number of members who are appointed by the Governor-General in Council from 6 to 8, and this with a view to making regional representation more equitable than it should be and with a view also to bringing into effect one of the decisions at the last Constitutional Conference in regard to representation of Lagos in the Federal Boards. In the past, Lagos had no representation but now under this Bill, it will have.



The other amendment concerns the representation of the Ibadan District Council on the Board. On the old Board, the Ibadan District Council had one representative and the reason why it had it at that time was that the University College Hospital used as a temporary accommodation the Adeoyo Hospital which belongs to the Ibadan District Council. It was therefore considered just that the District Council should have a representative on that Board. As hon. Members already know, the University College Hospital have now moved to their own premises and they have ceased completely to use the property of the Ibadan District Council. For that reason it was decided that the representation given to Ibadan District Council should therefore be discontinued.

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

**The Minister of Health :** Nobody would be more pleased than I that the Western Region should have more representatives on the Board but it was to compensate the other regions that the point has been raised that Ibadan District Council should have one representative, that the Western Region representation should be three while the other regions will have two. It is in deference to that opinion that this in particular has been done.

**Some hon. Members :** No, no. Leave Ibadan alone.

**The Minister of Health :** The other amendment involves the Ministry of Finance. Financial matters in connection with the University College Hospital, from my experience, are sore points in this House and the intention now is that the financial policy of the Government is that it should be represented during the meetings of the Board by a representative of the Ministry of Finance. That is the other amendment here. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete) :** I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. (*Hear, hear*). I am opposing this Bill on the following grounds. The explanation of the Minister is not at all convincing and it is not acceptable to this side of the House and that side of the

House. Now my point is this. The object of this Bill as the Minister said was to increase the representation of the existing membership of the Board by allowing Lagos to come in but in his other view he thought it fit to exclude the membership of Ibadan District Council. His other reason was that the University College Hospital used the Adeoyo Hospital temporarily and that was why we were given representation but the Minister failed to realise that the very land on which the College is situated is within the area of jurisdiction of Ibadan District Council. For that one reason alone, and I can give many other reasons—it is morally justified for Ibadan District Council to be represented on the Board.

The question raised by the Minister is that the other Regional Governments felt that the membership of Western Region will be increased. In this way, Sir, there are so many Bills being passed in this House and there are many corporations being established in Lagos for that matter. There was never a time that Lagos Town Council was never represented. My point is that it is quite evident that the land on which this College is built is situated within the jurisdiction of the Ibadan District Council. For that reason alone he should allow the membership of the Ibadan District Council and delete that of Lagos. If the argument is that it is increasing membership then increase rather than delete. Or is it because the N.C.N.C. controls the Ibadan District Council?

**Several hon. Members :** That is the reason.

**Mr Adeyinka :** This is morally wrong and I hope that the Minister will have a second thought about this Bill. For one reason Ibadan contributes more patients to that Hospital and therefore they should have a say as to the running and management. The second reason, whether or not you like it—Why do you like to hate N.C.N.C. all the time? (*Several hon. Members : Shame, shame*). Why should you like to discriminate against the society? I know your reason for bringing this Bill. It is just because you know that Ibadan District Council would be called upon to appoint a candidate. I know you are afraid. So, Mr Minister, withdraw this Bill. Withdraw it, this Bill is not necessary. Withdraw it or you put up an amendment to add Ibadan represen-



[MR BENSON]

Members for the Western Region, the Ibadan District Council appointee will be one of the two. Sir, I am advising the Minister accordingly. If that is done, this Bill will be easily passed through this House. After all, according to the words of Winston Churchill "What we have, we hold". According to legal dictum: "He who comes to equity must do equity" and since this Bill is for the equitable representation of Regions the Minister should also apply equitable representation to the Western Region so that Ibadan District Council can have one of the two Members for the Western Region, since they own the land. The Minister of Health can say anything he likes in this House; but since he has been the Minister of Health, Lagos has not been healthy.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City)**: We know very well that the Minister has been an enemy of the Ibadan people, about that there is no doubt, and it is true, of course, that the Minister has not been on very good terms with the majority of the Members of the Ibadan District Council because they are not A.G. Members, and the Minister I am sure will continue to do everything to embarrass the people of Ibadan District Council—there is no doubt about that, but the question is this. We may suspect that the Minister has brought this Bill before the House because of the motives he has and because of his intentions about the people of Ibadan and the Ibadan District Council. But the Minister has told us one thing and that is what I really want to confirm, that he has consulted the Regional Government about this. If that is true and if it is true that the Regional Government had made representations that there must be equal representation on this Board, then I think I would just tell the Minister that the Ibadan people who are the hosts in this particular case should have been considered. But, you see, we cannot go against this equal representation of the Regional Government. When we have anything Federal, it must reflect the true nature of the Federation.

The argument of the Members of the House is that Ibadan being the host should have representation on this particular Board, but you do not expect this Minister to give Ibadan that representation; he would not do it. So let us look at it from this angle, that this Board is a Federal Board and so must reflect the true

nature of the Federation by having equal representation from each of the Regions. But I would still say that regardless of equal representation there should be somebody from Ibadan. After all, Ibadan people have been very generous. I agree that in Nigeria wherever the University College Hospital is built the people in that particular area will be only too happy, but we are saying that they are the hosts and so unless the Minister is trying to make this House to believe that he is an enemy of the people of Ibadan and the majority of the members of the Ibadan District Council, there is no reason why we should not have representation of the Ibadan people on this Board.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola)**: On a point of Order, Mr Speaker, the hon. speaker should tell us how many representatives Kano has on the Airways Board.

**Mr Speaker**: That is not a point of Order.

**M. Maitama Sule**: There again, Sir, the Minister did not make it possible for the voice of Kano people to be heard on that Board because he, the Minister responsible for the Airways Corporation, is an A.G. Minister.

Mr Speaker, now that we have made our views known, I do not think we should go further. I think it is absolutely necessary that we should be realistic in this particular case. As I have said earlier, we should like to see representation of Ibadan people on this Board. As I have also said, we know the Minister is against the people of Ibadan and we know that a Federal Board must reflect the true nature of the Federation.

Sir, under the circumstances I support this Bill since I have made my observations. I say and I know that the Minister is an enemy of the Ibadan people and he will continue to be.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a question of the figures now that I want to deal with. We notice the original figure of six is now being increased to eight. On the principle of equitable distribution, there are three Regions: you give two to the North, two to the East, two to the West, one to Lagos and one to the Southern Cameroons. But we have a peculiar position in the Cameroons. We do not know where the Cameroons is at the



moment. Judging from the Constitutional Conference, by now they should have become a Region.

I remember, Sir, at the Budget Session we raised certain matters and we were told that owing to the existing constitutional position they were still part of the Federation. But after the House had adjourned, Sir, we were told again that they would not be part of the Federation for the purpose of registration for the forthcoming Federal elections and in fact they have not registered. At the moment they say they want to become a Trust Territory. Until the plebiscite has been undertaken, the Cameroons is not part of the Federation. That is a fact. If it is a part of the Federation, why is it that the provision of the Constitution as to registration of voters is not applicable to Cameroons? It is because Mr Foncha does not want it. If we are true and honest to ourselves, until the position of the Cameroons has been decided they should cease to be represented on Federal Boards. They are no longer a member of the Federation. Their position is not determined and therefore that one seat should remain vacant until the position is cleared. We are going to have the Federal elections in December or so, and their plebiscite will take place sometime next year and during that time their seats will not be filled here. If their seats will not be filled in the Federal Legislature, how can we fill seats for them in the subordinate Boards created by the Federal Legislature? The Minister of Health and the Government have to take into consideration the peculiar position of the Cameroons.

There are two alternatives. As far as Lagos is concerned, that is quite clear. One seat goes to them. But this Cameroons seat, we either take it and give it to the Ibadan people or if the Minister does not want to do that and wants to keep the Cameroons in his own pocket, then one seat from the Western allocation or two must go to Ibadan District Council. The Minister was giving us a reason because this was taken from Adeoyo Hospital and that is why the Council was not represented. Was that the only reason? What of the land? When Ibadan people gave land for the University College, had they no representation on the Board? Do you not give them special consideration for that?

I want to say this. The Member for Ibadan on the Action Group Bench was playing

politics. He did not say that he did not want Ibadan to be represented, and he did not want to oppose the Minister of the Action Group and did not want hon. Adeyinka to go home and tell their people that this man has said that Ibadan should not be represented on this Board. He has said here that he wants Ibadan to be represented. There is it. The Action Group representative of Ibadan has said Ibadan must be represented. The N.C.N.C. representative of Ibadan has said Ibadan must be represented. An N.P.C. representative has said that Ibadan must be represented, and I am saying on the N.C.N.C. side that Ibadan should be represented. The cross-section of this House want Ibadan to be represented.

What is there again to convince the Minister that this House wants Ibadan to be represented? If he can only give us assurance, Sir,—whether it is the seat of the Cameroons or the Western Region quota—that Ibadan will be represented, we will pass this Bill, but if he does not we are going to force a division on the issue and find out who does not want Ibadan to be represented. There is nobody there on the Action Group Bench who does not want Ibadan to be represented. To say so means failure for him at the forthcoming elections, and I challenge the Minister to say openly that he does not want Ibadan to be represented and see what results he will get. Whether we like it or not, it is not expedient to remove Ibadan from that Board, and since it is not expedient and it is not equitable, we should do the just thing and put down in no uncertain terms that whatever happens Ibadan must have a seat on the Board.

**The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji)**: Mr Speaker, I am very surprised that this important Bill has taken the tone of a political game. The hon. Members who have spoken on the representation of Ibadan obviously have been trying to play politics. I said when I was moving the Second Reading quite clearly that the main purpose of this amendment is to have equitable representation of the Regions. The other things are only incidental.

Now, the representation as a result of this amendment is as follows: two for the Northern Region, two for the Western Region, two for the Eastern Region, one for the Southern



[MR ADEYINKA]  
 suggestions of the the Government Chief Whip of the N.C.N.C., the Government Chief Whip of the N.P.C., and the member of the Action Group representing Ibadan. It shows how the Action Group people are wicked and they are seeking to usurp the fundamental human rights of the people of this country. (Some hon. Members : Shame !)

I have therefore put down this amendment asking that they should allow the representation of Ibadan people by only one person ; I am not asking for two. If they give the Western Region two seats let Ibadan have one of them. We do not say that other Regions should not be increased ; but what we are saying is that it is wrong for Ibadan people to be denied representation.

The Minister said that it was childish for people to say that this Bill is improper. What do we come here to do ? We do not come here to play football ; we come here to play politics. The Minister has surely done this thing for political reasons. The term of office of the gentleman holding the office now is about to expire. He is an Action Group member, and because the Minister knows that the gentleman's term of office is expiring he has brought this Bill, because he knows that if the gentleman goes, the Ibadan District Council will be called upon to nominate a member who will surely be an N.C.N.C.er. That is it ; and the Minister does not want to see it ; that is why he has brought this amendment Bill. It is wicked of them, and I know that that is the Action Group line.

I am happy that it has been recorded that, by the Grace of God, this country will not have the Action Group back in this Government. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I beg to move my amendment.

*Question proposed, That subsection (b) be left out.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, one useful exercise that has been performed over the second reading of this Bill is that there is something that has happened this morning to show how we have fallen short of our parliamentary duties. We have been so mush put in cold storage that we do not even know how to act as tellers ; we do not even know all the combination that has been going

on in this House. We are being blindfolded to do things against our conscience because of the Action Groupers.

The point about this amendment, Sir, is that it is the abolition of the existing right of Ibadan people. It is not a new right. The Minister of Health was referring to the University College. From the beginning the University College Ibadan or College of Arts, Science and Technology in their status and Regulations Ibadan never had any rights at all but here there is an existing right and it is right that the various Regions should ask for representation in a Federal institution. If you like increase them to twenty, to a thousand, it does not matter but existing right should come there. It is a very shameful thing at this stage of the crucial election.

I like to be frank. We know what is happening in Ibadan. You vote here. Everybody says that is a good thing not knowing they are drinking deep. I am particularly happy that this side of the House in spite of anything has gone to the lobby to assert their right that it is the Action Group Minister who wants to deny Ibadan people of their right, and whatever happens, I want this House to understand the real intention of this side of the House in asking that this should be deleted completely. (Interruption). You are the confusionists. You know exactly what is good for this people and you use your official position to abolish it. You say that there is no health in you. That is the thing. They are asking for representation on the Board and it is the Minister of Health who wants to deny them their right.

With great respect, we say that this portion should be deleted to enable Ibadan to continue to have representation. We are asking the Minister to give an assurance on behalf of the House. If he will give an assurance that from the protest of the West, Ibadan will be represented that will be a good thing, but he has treated the whole thing with contempt. He evaded the whole issue.

You have no federal institution at Aba. What special institution have you at Aba ? There is none. Have you done anything for Aba Division where you got £500,000 ? You have done nothing. We say delete this whether you like it or not. Ibadan people will know those who are their friends, those



*House of Representatives Debates*

1485

[U.C. Hospital (Amendment)]

5 AUGUST 1959

Bill : Committee]

1486

who want them to know their existing rights and those who go by the back door to deprive them of their rights. It is the Action Group that is killing Ibadan (*Hear, hear*). The Minister of Health has spoken, and considering the nature of the Government we can see that you have used your position to inject that Action Group bias. That is why the Government was confused. Do you think that if it was Government and opposition this would have gone through to-day? It would never have gone through like that. They could not have got away with it.

With this remark, I support the amendment that it should be deleted.

**M. Angulu Ahmed (Kwara)** : Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on this amendment I would like to correct the impression created by the Member on that side of the House. We on this side do not support the division blindly. We are here with our senses. The question now is that two members in each Region should represent it. We are here as members of the House of Representatives. We have no say as to who will be the member from the Western Region to the required Board. It is up to the Government of that Region to make a suitable arrangement.

**Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha)** : I rise to oppose this amendment. The speeches of the two hon. Gentlemen, hon. Adeyinka and Jaja Wachuku suggest that they are in ignorance of parliamentary practice. In a Government of this type the Cabinet has a collective responsibility and no Bill or Motion from the Government would appear on the Floor of this House unless it had been approved by the Cabinet. On the Cabinet you have a member from Ibadan who not only has acquiesced to this motion but also has voted in its favour. So I do not see why Members of this House could be so fidgety and develop cold feet and everything else over the forthcoming Federal election. There is nothing inducing them to adopt this line other than fear of defeat at the forthcoming election and we are very certain that their position in Ibadan is most insecure. Unfortunately these tactics will not help them.

**An hon. Member** : You are not coming back to this House.

**Dr Awduche** : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am coming back comfortably to this House.

Sir, may I for once bring a bit more sense into this debate. These men on that side have lost sight of the issue involved in this debate that not only is there a desire now to have equitable representation on the Board of the University College but there is also going to be an increase in the number to be appointed by the Governor-General from six to eight. Well, those who have spoken have, I am quite certain, not noted that the Board has for some time now never tabled as is requested in the Ordinance an annual report or the financial report of the Board for the past two years or so. I hope that there will be an increase in the number of members and an increased efficiency in the operations of the Board.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I oppose this amendment because there is no basis for the issue which they are raising.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**The Minister of Health** : Sir, I rise to move That in Clause 2, page C 76, line 8 the letter "(d)" be left out and the letter "(c)" be there inserted. The amendment sought here is only to correct a typographical error and to give the proper effect to a consequential amendment. I beg to move.

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

*Question, That the word be there inserted, put and agreed to.*

*Clause, as amended, agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported with an amendment, read the third time and passed.*

**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 six minutes to one o'clock.*



many developments in World Affairs, particularly in Africa. I do not think it desirable until nearer the date of Independence to forecast precisely what diplomatic and consular missions it will be necessary for Nigeria to establish.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Is the Minister aware of the fact that no trainee has been posted at Moscow and what does the Minister intend to do about that ?

**Mr Speaker :** That requires notice, I think.

**Mr S. J. Una :** Is it a fact that some of these trainees are non-Nigerians ?

**Chief T. T. Solaru :** Can the Junior Minister inform us what formal training these people in London are being given, and is he aware that they are dissatisfied with the training given them : they are merely running an office.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** This question needs notice, but I am not aware of what the hon. Member has said.

#### ARMED FORCES

##### Boys' Company Recruits

**O.165. Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Prime Minister, how many boys of Western Region origin have been recruited into the Boys' Company of the Military Forces.

**The Prime Minister :** 43, Sir.

##### The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment

**O.166. Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians have been commissioned from the ranks in The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment, and whether he will state their regions of origin.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** Out of the 40 Nigerian officers serving in the Nigerian Military Forces, 30 are with units of The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment. Of this number 13 had had previous extended service in the ranks ; the remainder were recruited specifically as potential officers. 9 of the 13 come from the Eastern Region, 3 from the Western Region and 1 from the Southern Cameroons.

#### POLICE

##### Slave Trading Reports

**O.184. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider increasing the strength of the Police in the areas with reported cases of slave trading and child stealing, in order to suppress these crimes.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** Reports of slave trading and child stealing are most common in the Creek areas of the Delta Province of the Western Region and in the Abakaliki and Uyo areas of the Eastern Region. Intensified launch and canoe patrols have been organized in the Creek areas of the Delta Province ; recent increases have been made in Police Posts in the Abakaliki area ; and a special bureau is being set up on Force Headquarters to analyse reports of missing persons and to direct investigations.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Is the Minister aware of the reports of child stealing in Lagos and in the Western Region, and that as late as yesterday there was a case reported of a child missing with only the head, arms and feet found under a kola tree in the Western Region ?

#### Police Strength in Regions

**O.185. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** asked the Prime Minister, what is the strength of the Police in each of the three Regions, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** The information required is best given in tabular form and I am arranging to have the figures of Nigeria Police strength on the 30th of June, 1959 circulated in the Official Report.

*Details are as follows—*

STRENGTH OF NIGERIA POLICE AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1959				
Region	Superior Police Officers	Inspec- tors	Rank and File	Total
Northern Region	71	87	2,257	2,415
Eastern Region	58	87	2,711	2,856
Western Region	61	88	2,171	2,320
Southern Cameroons	12	14	417	443
Federal Territory (including Force H.Q., Ports Authority Police, Railway Cor- poration Police and Southern Police College)	104	211	2,630	2,945
Recruits	—	—	681	681
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>10,867</b>	<b>11,660</b>



**M. Abdulkadir Koguna :** What steps is the Prime Minister taking to see that the Nigerian Railway stops people from jumping from trains ?

#### Slave Trading Charges

**O.186. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** asked the Prime Minister, how many people have been charged with slave trading and child stealing in each of the three Regions, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos from 1st January, 1958 to date.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** The figures asked for are as follows :—

<i>Slave Trading</i>			
Western Region	..	..	40
Eastern Region	..	..	55
Northern Region	..	..	Nil
Federal Territory of Lagos	..	..	1
<i>Child Stealing</i>			
Western Region	..	..	23
Eastern Region	..	..	36
Northern Region	..	..	6
Federal Territory of Lagos	..	..	9

Figures for the Southern Cameroons are not yet available.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo :** Is the Minister aware that there have been instances of girls kidnapped from Kabba Province into Kano in Northern Region ?

**Dr E. O. Awduche :** He has given us figures of charges, what about figures of conviction ?

#### Police Post at Northern Annang

**\*O.197. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider establishing a Police Post at Northern Annang Rural District Council area in Abak Division, in order to check the activities of the night marauders there.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** A general survey of the present establishment and responsibilities of Nigeria Police detachments throughout the Federation is at present in progress and it is hoped that a preliminary Report will be available for the Police Council to consider at its meeting in October. Until this Report is made it is not intended to deal piecemeal with requests for additional police services.

#### Abak Detachment

**O.198. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Prime Minister, what is the strength of the Police detachment at Abak, and whether he will consider increasing it and posting an Inspector of Police there.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** The present strength of the Abak detachment is as follows :—

Sergeant	..	..	..	1
Corporal	..	..	..	1
Lance/Corporals	..	..	..	2
Constables	..	..	..	16
				—
Total	..	..	..	20

Consideration is being given by the Inspector-General of Police to the possibility of posting a Sub-Inspector to command the detachment but resources do not permit of any increase in the numbers of other ranks.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo :** Will the Minister consider opening a Police Post midway between Uyo and Abak to stop these night marauders from flowing from Uyo into Abak Division every night ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** The hon. Member has heard in my reply to the previous question of a general survey of the Nigeria Police establishment and responsibilities of detachments now taking place. Until this Report is made it is not intended to deal with requests piecemeal.

#### Night Marauding

**O.199. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Prime Minister, how many cases of night marauding were investigated in Abak and Uyo Divisions during the year 1958 to 1959, and how many of these resulted in conviction and in acquittal respectively.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister :** The figures of burglaries and allied offences in the Uyo and Abak Divisions for the two years 1958 and 1959 are as follows :—

UYO			
Cases investigated	..	..	139
Number of convictions	..	..	29
Number of acquittals	..	..	14
ABAK			
Cases investigated	..	..	61
Number of convictions	..	..	11
Number of acquittals	..	..	5



## MINISTER OF FINANCE

Past experience has shown that some degree of under-expenditure is inevitable and it may well be that the surplus actually realised will be nearer £3 million than the £2.3 million estimated above. In this connection, I am glad to say that the latest figure of the estimated surplus for 1958-59 is now well over £2.4 million as compared with the amount of £1.5 million shown in the Financial Statement in the current Approved Estimates. This represents an increase of at least £900,000 over my estimate in January this year. As I have said the out-turn at the end of the current financial year may well be more favourable than at present estimated and the surplus consequently larger.

Sir, as regards the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, proposals for additional expenditure amount to £4,467,020. Of this amount £1,446,000 is reimbursable by the United Kingdom Government in respect of an interest-free loan for Special List B advances which it is making to the Northern Region Government. In addition, expenditure on certain projects will, as in previous years, be wholly or partially reimbursed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. Thus a balance of under £3 million remains to be met from our own resources. A few new projects have been included in these Supplementary Estimates which are not covered by existing Economic Programme allocations. Explanatory details of these projects are contained in the Memorandum to the Estimates. In particular, I wish to draw Honourable Members' attention to paragraphs 2 to 6 of the Memorandum which deal with highways and bridges. A comprehensive review of the road programme has recently been carried out by my Honourable Colleague, the Minister of Works and Surveys. The results of this review are now reflected under Head 602 of these Estimates and explained in some detail in the relevant paragraphs of the memorandum.

In my Budget Speech in February I announced the intention of the Federal Government to Build, on deferred payment terms, a toll bridge over the Niger River from Asaba to Onitsha (*Hear, hear*). I would like to seize this opportunity of explaining briefly to hon. Members what has influenced the siting of the bridge, as I know some of them have expressed misgivings on the subject. The House will be aware that a thorough survey was carried

out by the Government's consultants—Nedeco. This survey threw up several alternatives. For various technical reasons, with which I do not propose to trouble the House, it became apparent that the site now chosen was the best: it was above all the most economical. The western end of the bridge will be something over a mile from Asaba Town, but it is proposed to construct a first-class road direct from the Town to the bridge. This will be of great benefit to the inhabitants of both Asaba and Onitsha in facilitating their travel and I doubt if it will be long before regular bus and taxi services are established between the two towns. I hope this may provide a means of livelihood for some of those displaced by the closing of the ferry.

Preliminary works on the bridge site are now in hand and it is hoped that actual construction of the bridge will begin before the end of this financial year (*Hear, hear*). Provision has accordingly been made in the Supplementary Estimates for the initial and progress payments on this project, which it is estimated will take about four years to complete and will give Nigeria one of the great bridges of the world.

Sir, the Approved Estimates, 1959-60 indicate that the estimated balance in the Development Fund as at the 31st March, 1960 will be £141,746 only. On the other hand, proposals for additional expenditure embodied in the Draft Supplementary Estimates amount to just under £3 million after taking into account new reimbursable expenditure. How is the "apparent deficit" of some £3 million to be met? First as I said earlier on, a further sum of £2 million will be transferred from the recurrent budget surplus for this year to the Development Fund. Secondly, there is the expected increase of some £900,000 in the surplus on the 1958-59 recurrent budget to which I have referred earlier. This £900,000 will also be available for transfer to the Development Fund. Furthermore, the Approved Capital Estimates assume capital expenditure of some £37.3 million during the current financial year and in spite of the increased executive capacity now available, I dare say that there is bound to be some under-expenditure. I am satisfied also that the budget out-turn for 1958-59 will almost certainly result in an even greater contribution to the Development Fund than the currently revised estimated budget-surplus of £2.4 million.



Under Rule 7 of the Rules for the Operation of the Development Fund the Governor-General in Council may authorise the issue of a Development Fund (Special) Warrant to meet urgent capital expenditure which cannot be postponed without serious injury to the public interest. It was necessary to issue special warrants for sums totalling £1,062,270. Of this amount £587,270 is reimbursable or recoverable. I should also mention that not all the amounts will be spent during the current financial year, but it was necessary to issue warrants for the full estimated cost of the projects in order to enable contracts to be entered into. Later on, in the Committee of Supply I shall move amendments to include the items in question under the appropriate Heads of the Capital Estimates in your hands.

Statement of the Development Fund Supplementary Warrants issued in respect of revotes and amounts brought forward as well as statement relating to Capital Virement Warrants will also be laid before you in due course.

Sir, there is one further matter of importance which I wish to mention in connection with the Capital Estimates. The House will recall that last January, provision for the Independence Square project was reduced to a token sum of £10. I think the House will agree that it is wise for the Federal Government to consider making available, as a matter of urgency, funds for an imposing block of modern offices which will become a permanent symbol of Nigerian Independence. In Committee of Supply, I propose to move the necessary amendment to the Capital Estimates for a provision of £900,000. The need for office accommodation will increase in Lagos and Government will be expected to provide office accommodation for foreign embassies. The project will really be a paying concern. I am sure that hon. Members will like to see Tinubu Square with the imposing Central Bank building and the office of the Ministry of Finance adorned with an Independence Square before we celebrate our Independence on October 1, 1960.

Sir, at this point I would like to take a look at the wider picture. That is, the problem of finding the money to finance the Economic

Programme in full up to March 1962, which is the terminal date of the Federal Government's present planning period. I think I made it perfectly clear in my Budget Speech last January that the successful completion of the Federal Economic Programme would depend upon our ability to raise large sums of money overseas. There was a formidable gap between proposed expenditure and available resources, even after we had utilised our own local money to the full. This was why it was necessary for me to go to London for loan talks with United Kingdom Ministers. By now, hon. Members will be aware of the happy outcome of those talks. We have secured a sum of £15 million for the financing of our current programmes. I am sure the House will wish to join with me in voicing our whole hearted appreciation and gratitude to the British Government. (*Cheers*)

This loan, members will appreciate, is for the Federation as a whole; the division between the Governments will be a matter on which the advice of the Loans Advisory Council will be required. The latest figures show that the gap between expenditures and resources in the development plans of all the Governments to be financed externally is of the order of £32 million. The U.K. loan of £15 million does not bridge the full gap, but I am confident that, at least as far as the Federal Government is concerned, the loan is sufficient to give us the confidence to proceed with our present development plan. At this stage I cannot say how much of the £15 million will be available to the Federal Government, although it would be reasonable to suppose that the Federal Government's share will be substantial. Whatever share we obtain, we shall be left with a fairly large gap to fill. Over the next few months it will be my task to initiate all possible measures to fill that gap. In the first place, I shall be looking for loans from our many friends in the West, both in Europe and the American continent. In this connection, I am happy to say that, while I was in London, I was given an assurance that the British Government would assist Nigeria in her approach to these friendly nations. That assistance will be very welcome to us. In the second place, we shall be seeking contractor finance for suitable projects. By these and other means I feel certain we shall be able to achieve our current targets, although I



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

know the House will appreciate that the programme is extending the financial capacity of the Federal Government to the utmost.

It is clear, as I have indicated, that, without this splendid gesture by Her Majesty's Government, we could not have gone confidently forward with our full development programme. It is a happy augury for future relations with Britain that she should have ensured our entering nationhood next year with every prospect of completing our present development plans successfully. The help which we have secured from the U.K. Government demonstrates the sincere desire of Britain to see her former colonies emerge upon the world scene solvent and with their economics soundly based. In this way they can make their proper contribution to the economic progress of the Commonwealth as a whole.

Finally, in connection with the loan talks, I wish to pay a special tribute to the friendly and helpful spirit in which United Kingdom Ministers and officials conducted the negotiations with me and my delegation. I am particularly indebted to my old friend Lord Perth for his constant sympathy with our problems and aspirations and for the part he played in the successful outcome of the talks. I am grateful too for all that the Secretary of State, Mr Lennox Boyd himself did to ensure the success of the talks. Yet again he has demonstrated his ready sympathy with our needs and his lively interest in the development of Nigeria, both of which have been so evident at the Constitutional Conferences of recent years.

It is my sincere hope that on the foundation laid by this £15 million loan we shall build a united and prosperous Nigeria. I pray that those who come to high office in the future will work for the same ends. Our aim should be to establish firmly in Nigeria the best democratic practices, so that freedom will come to have a real meaning for the man in the street. We want a Nigeria with a healthy Opposition and not a country in which those who hold views contrary to those of the Government run the risk of banishment. Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about particular developments in the financial and economic field since I addressed the House in February. One of the most important events was the opening of the

Central Bank building in Tinubu Square on the 1st July, by our respected Prime Minister, in the presence of His Excellency, the Governor-General and a large gathering of distinguished guests. Among these was included Mr Cameron Cobbold, the Governor of the Bank of England. The opening of the Central Bank building had both symbolic significance and actual importance. Symbolic significance because it was an outward sign of the increasing control that Nigeria is taking of her own monetary affairs. Actual importance because the opening was coincident in time with the first day of issue of our own national currency.

May I say how proud I was that it should have fallen to my lot to be Minister of Finance on this memorable occasion. The establishment of the Central Bank was the most important task assigned to me when I took office and I am glad I was able to see it through to a successful conclusion. I wish to thank the Prime Minister for his encouragement and support without which the task would have been impossible.

During my Budget Speech last February I said it was hoped that on the 1st July the Central Bank would assume its functions as the bank of issue, and that on that same day the new currency would make its first appearance. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy to inform the House that this is now an accomplished fact. The Nigerian currency notes, including the new five shilling note, have been well received. So has the handsome one shilling coin. The currency conversion will take about three years to complete, but I can say here and now that the launching has been an unqualified success. Some £10 million of the new currency is already in circulation. For this auspicious start to a complex operation tribute must be paid to the Governor and staff of the Central Bank, to the commercial banks and to the Federal Information Service. The commercial banks were very helpful indeed. Members will no doubt wish to join the Government in expressing deep appreciation for the assistance rendered by the banks in this regard.

Another significant event was the successful flotation last May of the Federation of Nigeria Development Loan by the Central Bank of Nigeria on behalf of the Federal Government.



*House of Representatives Debates*

1505 [Supplementary Appropriation 6 AUGUST 1959 (1959-60) Bill : Second Reading] 1506

The loan, which was for £2 million, was over-subscribed by more than £ $\frac{3}{4}$  million. This result was most gratifying. Not only did the big institutions come forward well, with their subscriptions, but so did the small man with his ten or twenty pounds. It is heartening to see how ready the public is to contribute to the development of the nation. The success of this local loan augurs well for the future. For our part we shall continue to pursue sound economic and financial policies in order to maintain the credit-worthiness of the country.

Sir, a further step forward was taken in the development of the delta ports last June when the Deputy Governor-General of the Federation, Sir Ralph Grey, performed the opening ceremony of the Port of Koko. In the earlier decades of this century ocean going boats were regularly using this port. But gradually the littoral drift sweeping sand on to the bar reduced the depth of water available so that entry was limited to small vessels only. The new port will supplement Sapele Port and thus help to reduce the difficulties encountered by shipping at the delta ports. It also provides another access to the hinterland of the Mid-West, a region which is generally recognised to be in urgent need of development. (*Applause*). We must hope that when in four or five years time the great Escravos Bar project comes to completion, there will be an upsurge of shipping activity through these ports that will benefit them all and spread prosperity throughout the area, and the whole country. (*Hear, hear*).

On the 1st day of June I entered, on behalf of the Government of the Federation, into a Deed of Covenant with Shell-BP Petroleum Development Co. of Nigeria Ltd. which provided that the Petroleum Profits Tax Ordinance shall apply to any future profits of the company stemming from their existing oil exploration and prospecting licences and from any mining leases consequential thereon. The conclusion of contractual arrangements between Government and oil companies on these lines is a common feature of the industry. The effect of the Petroleum Profits Tax Ordinance is that the profits which a company makes from oil exploitation are divided on a 50 : 50 basis between the company and Government. The Government's 50 per cent share includes all revenue from royalties, rents,

import duties and income tax. Such an arrangement results in substantial advantages for Nigeria enabling us, as it does, to plan for steadily increasing revenue over the coming years instead of our being left in hope of a sudden windfall, at some future date which cannot at present be forecast with any certainty. The Shell-BP Petroleum Development Co. of Nigeria Ltd., for its part, has not only accepted the 50 : 50 profit sharing arrangement, but in order that enhanced benefits may be seen by Nigerians to flow from the increasing volume of oil now being won, the company has further volunteered to pay royalties as from 1st June at higher rates than those prescribed in their existing licences. I am glad to have the opportunity to thank the company on behalf of all Governments in Nigeria for this realistic gesture of good faith.

As Honourable Members are no doubt aware, I have only recently returned from an official visit to the Lebanon, Pakistan, India and Israel. (*Applause*). The primary purpose of my visit was to make contact with Ministers and other persons in the countries I visited with a view to strengthening the links between those countries and Nigeria. In the case of India, I was also able to renew the cordial friendships which I had made with the Indian Minister of Finance and other Indian Ministers whom I met last year in Montreal at the Commonwealth Economic Conference. In Pakistan and India I was particularly impressed by the cordial reception which I received as the representative of a prospective member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. (*Hear, hear*). All the countries I visited eagerly await the Independence of Nigeria and look forward to seeing our country take her place as one of the leading nations of the African Continent. (*Hear, hear*). By size and population, Nigeria will be easily the largest independent African state. (*Hear, hear*). We should appreciate the responsibilities which will come with our new status in the world. Provided we create conditions here in Nigeria for a stable and truly democratic Government and manage our economic affairs upon a basis of sound planning, we can fulfil the mission which people all over the world expect us to undertake. (*Hear, hear*).

I had the opportunity of discussing with the leaders of the countries I visited the problems



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

must make adequate arrangements for training Nigerians in the managerial and technical skills. (*Hear, hear*).

I am sure, Sir, that all members of the House will wish to join me in expressing gratitude to the American Government for its generous gift. In the past I have once or twice had occasion to remark that it sometimes seems that the vast resources of the American Government do not seem to be applied as practically or as open-handedly in Africa as in other parts of the world. This grant, given without strings for a sound practical aim, is, I like to think, a sign that the great American Government is re-examining and refurbishing its aid policies to make them really well adapted to our needs. We must also not lose sight of the fact that it is through the British Government that we are able to receive this money. It was originally to Her Majesty's Government that the money was granted and now they are passing it on to us. Let us therefore express our thanks to the British Authorities also.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I should wish to say that both my Honourable Colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and myself are convinced that there will be no shortage of estimable projects which can draw benefit from the Fund. I am happy to be able to bring before the House a Bill which gives one more indication of the justifiable faith which other countries have in the future of Nigeria.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second this Bill. In so doing I would like to express my appreciation for the generosity of the Government of the United States in making this money available to us. By means of this gift, industry in Nigeria can be further expanded and modernised. The fund will be used to make loans to medium-sized enterprises and it will supplement the financial assistance which we are already able to give through the Federal Loans Board. Loans will be made to industrial enterprises anywhere in the Federation (*Hear, hear*) and it is vital that the money will be invested even throughout the country. (*Hear, hear*).

It will be my responsibility as the Minister of Commerce and Industry to administer this fund and to make submissions to the Govern-

ment regarding the loans to be granted. To assist me in this task, I have already set up an Advisory Committee comprising mainly unofficial members from the Regions and officials of the Ministry of Finance and from my Ministry. The committee will hold its first meeting under the chairmanship of Alhaji Shehu Bukar on the 27th of this month. Technical officers of my Ministry will examine the applications constructively not in a negative manner (*Hear, hear*) and will report on them to the Committee. I feel that the money should be used usefully, not to be looked upon whimsically, and if possible that the Committee with its intimate knowledge of the need of the Regions and in many cases with the proper knowledge of the applicant will perform an invaluable service.

I am arranging for full publicity to be given to the establishment of the fund and on the procedure for making applications. I ask that hon. Members on their return to their constituencies should help to publicise the fact that the Federal Government now can give additional funds to assist Nigerian industry throughout the Federation (*Hear, hear*). With this remark, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I wish to make certain observations.

The efforts being made by the Federal Government of Nigeria to encourage the growth of industry and the productivity of such industries by making funds available for would-be industries as well as already existing industries is most heartening and they are most welcome.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in this stage of our development nothing short of vigorous but reasonable industrialisation will solve the difficult problems confronting this country, the problem of raising the standard of living of the people of Nigeria. We therefore must thank the British Government and the United States Government for that matter for helping us to surmount one of the snags and obstacles that has always been in our way of progress towards a higher standard of living.

Mr Speaker Sir, for a long time we have known that there have been a lot of natural resources in this country yet untapped. We know that there are many people in the country



that want to establish some industry of some kind but have not got the money to do so. We realise, as we have always said in this hon. Legislature, that for a long time to come we have to depend on foreign countries to give us this financial aid. We are therefore extremely grateful to the United States Government and to the United Kingdom Government for that matter for giving us this money in order to help our own industries. But we must understand one thing. When we are helping or trying to help these industries one thing must not escape our minds. All these years Government has given out loans, but I do not think enough technical advice has been given to these people that have always applied for and been given these loans.

When Government makes any loan to any industrialist I think the purpose of that loan is to make that industrialist establish his own industry on a sound footing so that it may yield dividend so that he may benefit and the country may benefit by the establishment of that industry. Often, time and again, some people with very good intentions of course do ask for loans but when they are given that money they know very little how to spend the money well. They need at least some advice. I am asking the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Government for that matter not only to give out loans to people but also to help them with some technical advice on how to set these industries on a sound footing. If that is done we will be helping the people to produce industries that will help the country's economic growth.

Another thing that I have always said in this hon. Legislature is the question of encouraging industry at the expense of commerce. Commerce and industry are inseparable: they must always go together. They cannot be divided. When you have a lot of industries in the country producing certain things, those things produced by such industries must be sold in the market. That is where commerce comes into the show. Quite recently we have realised that a lot of people engaged in commerce have been suffering a great deal because there is no help coming from the Government in that particular field. What loans the Government is giving out go to industries and the establishment of industries. The people engaged in commercial enterprise do not get

any loans from the Government. I sometimes wonder whether the Government should not explore the possibility of giving out loans to such people and if they cannot give them such loans I am hoping that Government will encourage and support any sort of enterprise, company or corporation that is aiming at helping such commercial enterprise because at the moment there is no such help forthcoming from the Government.

I may be told that such commercial enterprises should seek help from the banks and firms. That is true but I still feel that there can be some help from the Government and if there is not going to be any help from the Government because funds are not available I will ask Government to do everything possible to support morally, financially, any corporation or company established with the sole purpose of helping such commercial enterprises. I have in mind a new company that has just been blessed by the Government. When and if the Investment Company of Nigeria comes into existence it will be of the greatest help if the Government will give it all the financial and moral help that it deserves because that particular company will be concerned with helping industrial and agricultural projects in this country and I think that is a company that is worth supporting.

In concluding I would say that I am extremely happy with the Federal Government of Nigeria for, as I have always said, and I will continue to say, what we need in this country is capital. God has been so generous and so good to Nigeria as to give us an abundance of natural resources in this country. What we need is money to tap or exploit these natural resources, and we know that for a very long time we have to depend on foreign capital in order to tap or exploit these natural resources. Foreign capital cannot just come by itself. It has to be attracted. To attract it we must ensure that there is peace and tranquillity prevailing in this country. We must ensure that there is political stability in the country; we must ensure there is economic determination on the part of the people of Nigeria; and we must ensure that our political leaders are men of integrity and honest people. I am glad to say political stability there is, for without it there cannot be a National Government. Our leaders have got the integrity



[MR AKWIWU]

to make one or two observations. In the first place, I agree entirely with those Members who have spoken here to say that the amount voted is too small. Mr Speaker, Sir, they are confident it is definitely too small. One of the current difficulties that confront this country is thinking and planning in a very small way. Anyone who has had anything to do with enquiries or investigations as to the establishment of industries, or commercial undertakings, will definitely know that thinking in terms of £1,000 and £500, they might do well for village industries and things to keep villagers busy, but if you are going to think of Commerce and Industry in the modern sense, certainly you must think in terms of anything around £10,000 or upwards. But £200,000; if we examine it carefully, we ought to know that with the population of this country and the potential commercial and industrial potentialities of this country, both human and otherwise, it is definitely too small. I do hope, Sir, that the Government is not going to wait until some more money is given by the United States or the United Kingdom before we can make a reasonably large sum of money available.

As has already been said, there is a body that is already giving loans for industrial development in this country, and that is the Industrial Loans Board. Now, under Section 9 of the Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) Ordinance, Section 9(i) says: "The Board may make loans to any persons for projects designed to further the industrial development of the Federal Territory of Lagos or its environs, or the industrial development of the Federation of Nigeria".

Now, this Ordinance, or the Bill in paragraph 3 says "the fund may be utilised for providing loans to assist in the establishment, expansion or modernisation of industrial enterprises of a productive character including the provision of services within Nigeria".

Now, Sir, the point is really this, that either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Commerce and Industry must explain to us what is the difference between the functions of these two bodies. As far as we see it, the Industrial Loans Board's functions have been limited by the fact that it cannot grant less than £10,000 outside Lagos and, then, it cannot grant more than £50,000. But the

point is, at what stage do their functions divide—quite apart from the ordinary financial limitations as to what should be granted to an individual at a time? I think, Sir, that it is a matter which should be more satisfactorily explained to this House.

Again, Sir, we model these provisions and we leave them so wide that it is rather an embarrassment or a difficulty to the person that has to administer them. We know that under the Industrial Loans Board there is, apart from the financial limitations, no other limitation in the Ordinance itself quite apart from the fact that it must be for industrial purposes. Now we know as a matter of fact that it has been decided either by the Federal Loans Board or its Advisers that loans can only be granted in respect of industries which are now existing. Now we would like more explanation to be given in respect of this fund we are now about to create. Is it to cover what the Industrial Loans Board is unable to cover, or is it also to grant loans that might conflict with the ones already being granted by the Industrial Loans Board. I think, Sir, this is a point which should be explained.

And I may add, Sir, already a Member has spoken in this House about the concentration of attention on industries at the expense of commerce. I think, Sir, that this is a very serious point which must be given every consideration. If we have industrialists, definitely we cannot be without the Commercial people, and if the Commercial people are weak, disorganised or lack capital to carry on their business, then I think in a very short time our industrial undertakings will be facing the difficulty of how to market what they produce. And I think, Sir, that in the interest of this country there are one or two other things that Government ought to do other than what they are already doing. One, I think, Sir, the time has come for the Government either to study or to enquire into Commercial practices in this country; either in the nature of examining the trade relationships or trade practices between the importers, wholesalers and the retailers.

I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, if I remember correctly, something had to be done in the name of aid to African business. Well, we have not yet seen the reports published, we do not know exactly what has been done



House of Representatives Debates

1521 [Revolving Loans Fund for 6 AUGUST 1959 Industry Bill : Second Reading] 1522

there except the one who sat with them. But I think, Sir, that the time has come for the Government to really give itself the opportunity to learn the needs of the Commercial sections of this country.

And then, Sir, there is also this need : and this is the organisation of Foreign Trade Missions. People of this country who are industrially-minded and commercially-minded must be given the opportunity to go outside and meet their colleagues of the outside world, learn new industrial ideas, learn new commercial ideas with a view to coming back to help advancement in this country. I do not think, Sir, that it does this country any good if the only assistance that industrialists of this country can be given will be the sending out of officials of the Department of Commerce and Industries to go to the world outside and come back and initiate policies as a result of their own personal knowledge. They may be good officials but certainly in industry and commerce experience and practice count a great deal and I think it will help us much better.

And on the explanation given by the Minister it is said that—if I got him right—that the application would have to receive the approval of the Council of Ministers. I think, Mr Speaker, that this is definitely a way for making sure that things will go very very slowly. The Council of Ministers is extremely busy ; we all believe they are very busy people. They have got so many memoranda to go through, so many things to look into and then to examine applications for loans of £1,000, £500 and £10,000 I feel, Sir, would be adding to their already overburdened minds. I feel that they ought to think up another way of speeding up the proceedings of this Board. I think, Sir, that that provision might well have been made, people realising the amount of difficulties that might be confronted in so doing, but I think that this is a matter on which the Government ought to think again. They may select certain applications that may have to come before them ; for example, when the applicant company is comprised partly of Nigerians and partly of expatriates, it would be a fair case to refer to the Council of Ministers to examine and enquire into the *bona fides* of the application. But if it is that every application must have to go before the Council of Ministers for approval I think

that not only will it produce delay, it may also produce conflicts that might not be always understood.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

**M. Jalo Waziri** (Gombe) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill it will not be out of place first to give sincere thanks to both the United States Government which made this fund available to the United Kingdom which in turn generously transferred it to this country. With wise disbursement of this £200,000—and we trust the Federal Government for expanding and modernising productive industrial enterprises, including the provision of services within Nigeria—I sincerely hope that the living standards of some thousands of the common people will be raised. Nigeria is fast moving on, and in October 1960 we shall join the other Independent African States. Since the purpose of this Revolving Loans Fund is to promote productivity in industry it would be more useful and economical to establish national industries.

It is a matter of gratification that we are becoming increasingly aware that though a predominantly agricultural country, Nigeria cannot ignore, in this modern world at least, small-scale industries to provide not only employment for the masses but also to produce cheap good-quality articles instead of imported costly ones. One point is clear, and that is that agriculture constitutes the mainstay of our national economy. It is therefore necessary that the reconstruction of our national industries should be given priority. There must be a radical change in our policy if we must achieve this aim. This therefore brings to my mind the wisdom of the Federal Government in inviting the two American experts currently touring the country with a view to advising on small business administration. One can only hope that their report will be quickly submitted and swiftly considered by the Government. After all, it may be useful in the disbursement of this Revolving Loans Fund.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a well-known Nigerian industrialist told the visiting experts a few days ago that some of the difficulties facing Nigerian industrialists were lack of managerial staff, trained tradesmen and technical assistance. It is my belief that the Government through the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry



[M. JALO WAZIRI]

took notes of these comments, and would in expending this Fund take them into consideration. The same industrialist, answering a question by one of the experts, complained that plans for the expansion or building of factories take an unbearably long time and tiring processes before they received Government assent and also that most Nigerian industrialists were contented to carry on small business in small factories. Whoever or whatever is responsible for this should receive the Government's attention and a halt called on these unnecessary delays.

One other point I would like to make which has been repeatedly mentioned on the floor of this House is the siting of industries. These in the past have been invariably concentrated in the big cities and urban areas, with the result that there is a continuing exodus of our youths from the rural to the urban areas. It is time this policy was stopped. It is a policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is a wrong policy which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. It is most unfair to the rural areas. Mr Speaker, the argument that it is the responsibility of the Regional Governments to establish small scale industries in the rural areas does not hold water. The only way to tell the people of the rural areas that the Federal Government is not a "Lagos Government" is to make its existence felt and seen in those areas. (*Hear, hear*). The disbursement of this Revolving Fund affords the Government an opportunity to show its existence to these people. These industries must be spread to the North, East, West and the Federal territory as equitably as conditions for their establishment favour.

Mr Speaker, with these few remarks, I support the Bill.

**Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the second reading of this Bill, I wish to add my quota of thanks to those already given by Members to whoever is responsible for this very generous allowance. Mr Speaker, there are one or two points in regard to the nature of this Fund that I think this House is entitled to know. Now, Sir, in the preamble to the Bill we are told that the Funds are part of the monies made available by the United States Government to the United Kingdom Government for the promotion of industrial enterprise in the United Kingdom.

We are further told that the United Kingdom Government has agreed to direct some part of this Fund to Africa. Now, Sir, the point which in my humble opinion this House should want made clear, is the nature of the funds. Is it an outright grant to this Government or is it in form of a loan? It is important that this is known, Sir, in order that we may know the extent of our gratitude. If it is a loan, we would like to know for what time. Is it for ten years, twenty years or in perpetuity? Sir, I think these are matters that the House should be clear about.

Now, Sir, some Members have referred to the existing Federal Loans Board and have complained of delays in that Board. I wish to make it clear to the House that that criticism is very much unjustified. If Members have taken pains to investigate the matter of delays in the Board, they will find that the Board is not in any way responsible for the delays. What happens is this. (*Interruption*). Members are entitled to hear the truth from wherever it comes.

What happens is this. People apply to this Board. They get their loan approved if they satisfy the requirements of the Board. But for months and perhaps for years they fail to satisfy the security requirements of the Board. You do not expect that Members of the Board will give away your money without getting proper security. If a recipient of a loan does not provide the necessary security, or is unable to provide it in time, it is not the fault of the Board that the loan is not finalised. So I wish that point is clearly known so that Members do not cast flaws on people who do not deserve any.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading.

**Mr B. A. Ajayi (Ekiti South)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the previous supporters of this Bill. I think the House will be unanimous in thanking not only the United States who gave the grant but also the United Kingdom who have made part of it available to us. I was one of those who felt that this might be a loan, because the Bill did not clarify the position. The Bill only stated that a sum of money was made available and I thought that if it was a loan it might be that we are contracting a loan which was already loaned in the United Kingdom and I was not sure of what might be the rate at which we contracted



the loan. But the Minister of Finance in his statement definitely called it a grant which means that it is not a loan. If it is an outright grant, then we should be grateful to the Government and also we should thank the Minister of Finance for his efforts in finding us funds. Also must we thank the Government for trying to ensure that this Fund forms the nucleus of an important project and it is hoped that this Fund will be utilised to the best interest of the country. But one thing has caused me some concern, and that is the suggestion given by the Minister of Finance that he has set up an Advisory Committee. One of the speakers has told us of Industrial Loans Board. I personally do not see how and why that Board should not take up the duties and if it is too much for that body, I consider this time too short for the Government to set up an Advisory Committee because of the speech of the Minister of Finance who has said that this Fund will not be available till September. If this Fund will not be available till September, how long then will this Government make it possible for an Advisory Committee to complete all the arrangements that are required for the award of the loan ?

With that observation, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I must apologise for coming into this, but I am sure Members will have some opportunity to speak when we go into Committee and I think I should reply briefly to some of the points. It may be too early but certainly the hon. and respected politician, Chief Onyia, will appreciate that the Bill not being a contentious one, I think I must give him some time to go and study the Supplementary Budget Speech so that he will come well armed to fire away.

Well, Sir, I want to say how very grateful we on the Government Bench are to the Members for joining us in expressing appreciation to the Government of America and the United Kingdom Government for making this money available to us to support our small industrial businessmen. I think the position is very clear. I have listened carefully to the criticisms of Mr Daldry which are very constructive, as well as those of other Members of the House, and some of the points made need some clarification.

The question as to why an Advisory Loan Board was raised by Mr Daldry and amplified by Hon. Mariere and others. The position is that this is a revolving loan fund. The other one is not. The revolving loan is one that replenishes its fund by the repayment of the money to enable more money to be given to us and I think I should make it very clear that if we add it to the other one it may be merged into one fund. The fund is given for a specific purpose and as more money will be required to be put into this particular fund it is necessary to divide it up. The second point is the one already made by Hon. Fani-Kayode that the present Board is over-taxed against so much that they are to do and that it will delay the work. But you can imagine the amount of delay that will occur and I think you will agree that it is necessary therefore to have division of labour so that we can expedite matters.

Mr Akwivu had wanted to know what the difference is and he also advocated the expeditiousness of the disbursement. I can assure him that I together with my hon. Colleague and friend, the Minister of Commerce and Industry have discussed that sufficiently and to assure him that there will be no delay and that there will be no prevarication. I think that assurance is very clear. The fact that we know a Bill will be finally approved by the Governor-General in Council does not mean that there is going to be any delay. Afterwards there is joint responsibility for this Government and as Mr Udochi has rightly said if loans are to be given in security, you must appreciate that all facts must be collected and the Minister must satisfy himself by the advice of the Board that the loans must be given safely and to credit worthy people, because if you give money to people who will not repay this money you will be impoverishing the Board and other people who are on the waiting list will not receive their loan in time.

I think it is Hon. Akwivu again who made the point of the paucity of this amount. I want to say that if he cared to read section 2 subsection (ii) (b) he will see that the loan will be reimbursed from time to time and I think that the appreciation which you have expressed this morning will spur up the people in America and in the United Kingdom to send us more money which will be added to this fund and make it possible for other people to have their loans. It is not true, as Hon.



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Akwilu has just said, that 200 people will get £100 each or whatever it is, I have said that the minimum will be £10,000, and we can go up to £50,000 so it is not a question of £100 or £1 loan being given under this fund.

Finally, I am told that my hon. Friend (Mr Ajayi) as a new comer will find it difficult to get things right, and afterwards the difference between teaching or lecturing the school boys and speaking in a Parliament is so wide otherwise, there would have been no reason for my hon. Friend Mr Ajayi to question the right of this Government in setting up the Advisory Board, because the life of this House is considerably near its end. We assure Mr Ajayi that whether it is to-day or tomorrow, 1959 or 1960, the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. will always remain in this Government and he and his other friends will remain always in opposition.

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa** (North East Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Government for the introduction of this Bill, but I wish to advise the Government in putting it into effect. It is a very good thing to give money. To give it is quite easy, but it is very difficult to get it back. Well if the Government is so anxious to lend money to the people who are concerned in industry in Nigeria, I think the Government must be prepared to make protective measures that will help the industries. This is a very very good point that I would like to enumerate, so that people will understand what I say quite clearly.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): You have not declared your interest.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): The Minister is not speaking from the Ministerial seat allocated to him. He is speaking from the wrong seat.

**Mr Speaker**: The Ministerial bench is not very clearly defined. Originally it contained far too few seats for the number of Ministers concerned. Those two vacant seats over there are, in my opinion, for the use of the Ministers.

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa**: Mr Speaker, if an industry wants to find an outlet to sell its products (and that is a very important thing to get an outlet to sell what is produced) you must get these outlets, and hope to offer or sell your products if you really want to keep

running your industry well. Well that is commerce on the one hand. The Government must be prepared to help commerce as well as industries, not leaving Commerce alone at the mercy of the foreign firms. We make a Bill here so that the products of the Nigerian industries would get priority in the competitive tenders of the Government. But there is one snag that is giving trouble to these industries, that is competitive tender prices. I do not know what the Officials decide to call it, but it must be a competitive price before you can sell your products, although the Government says clearly that Nigerian products will be bought by the Government in the country. Well, it is difficult to sell your products competitively with the foreign concerns that are importing merchandise and placing large orders one after another and then you continue to have these small industries in the country meeting serious competition. There must be, by all means, a difference that the Government must be prepared to allow a margin of small profits for these small industries that are producing in the country, otherwise the foreign firms will be killing the industries here. What is the Government doing about this.

This is what I am saying. There must be protective measures for these industries that the Government want to assist, otherwise it would be useless to give them this money. (*Interruption*). Mr Minister, I am talking from experience. (*Hear, hear*). I must apologise that I am arguing with my very good friend, the Minister of Finance. The Government must try to make protective measures for these small industries. I am not asking too much. But it is a wise saying that if you want to build your house, you must build it properly.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to say too much, but I think that if the Government is in a position to accept my wise counsel, it will be a very good thing for industries in Nigeria.

I beg to support.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): I am very grateful, Mr Speaker. There is just one other point I think must be raised in supporting this Bill, and that is that seeing that the fund is so small, I think it will be necessary to husband our small resources to minister to priority. I would like to ask whether anything is being done to make a survey of prior needs of this



industrial development in the country. What are we devoting this money to? Supposing somebody comes and says he wants to establish another beer factory, just because we have got everything laid on, will we benefit from this? Do we need more beer factories? Who is to determine along what lines we are to develop? If the Government does not take the lead in this matter, it will look as if our development may be haphazard and perhaps sometimes lopsided.

I would respectfully suggest that it is the duty of the Government to see to the orderly development of the industries and therefore to arrange priority of the development of industry.

Secondly, to underline what has just been said by my Friend, Alhaji Danbappa. I think it is necessary to safeguard our local industries. It is no good setting up industries if the foreign enterprises will be allowed to kill them. We remember how the singlet manufacturers have shouted and shouted in this House. I know it is receiving your attention. But while you are attending to it, maybe that industry is being killed. What is the use of bringing children into the world only to strangle them?

Sir, lastly, it goes without saying that you must not look a gift horse in the mouth: you might find out too much. But perhaps we ought to do a little looking. I hope that these loans and grants from America and the United Kingdom are without any strings attached.

**The Minister of Finance :** None.

**Chief Solaru :** Thank you.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to stress the importance of co-operation and unity and of educating our people in this competitive world, that we too must also form big combines. I have already had occasion to discuss with some merchants in Lagos. We Nigerians are too individualistic, and we cannot compete with U.A.C. and the rest of them. We too must form combines. This is too essential and it is intended to help those who want to help themselves by combining. I hope that Members, when they go back, will inform the people to make combined effort. Let us cut our coat according to our cloth, and meanwhile make combined effort to solve our problem.

There is need for development, need for co-operation, need for putting our resources, both mental and managerial, together. It is absolutely necessary to go and tell them. My Ministry is quite determined to provide the facilities. It does not make me happy to go out and say that I am a very poor Minister from a very poor country. When I want to go and talk to the industrialists I want to go and talk to them like a millionaire to a brother millionaire (*Applause.*)

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Are you no longer a Common man's messenger?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I am glad if I am a messenger. Although you are my brother Colleague, I come from the N.P.C., a party which looks for the interests of the small man. (*Loud applause.*)

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu): I thought that when the Minister of Finance replied to the various points raised by various speakers, that that had about clarified what I had in mind. But when the Minister of Commerce and Industry spoke, I expected that he would have made a reply to sum up the points raised by Members in this House about the position of the report of the Committee that was set up as a Committee on Aid to African Businessmen. The Minister of Finance said that the object of this fund would be to support our small businessmen—and it ties up vividly with that report. I say, just as a notice to the Minister, that I do hope that before this House rises we should know in no uncertain terms what is happening with this Committee. We may be talking of industries, which are very important to any growing country, but we should not face the problem of industrial indigestion by talking too much without having them co-ordinated.

I am satisfied the Minister of Finance has said that he is separating the Loans Board Committee from this new one to quicken the process of getting things done. But there must be a means of co-ordinating these two loans, otherwise we may be faced with so many ideas and developments without knowing actually to what objective we are carrying these.

When it comes to the question of Revolving Fund, it seems to me that the object will be to assist firms that are well established and whose



[DR MBADIWE]

securities will be respected, because the way in which you have to operate a sound Revolving Fund is to develop one industry; see that it gets on its feet; then you will have to determine how long it takes that industry to get to its feet, and you will make it possible to withdraw that money and invest into another industry.

**An hon. Member :** Like the business of Mr L. N. Obioha?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I would say like the cement industry at Nkalagu which has sprung to its feet in a couple of years. Are we sure that in dealing with African enterprises that we have the know-how, that we have the same facilities as in the case of the cement industry which will enable the industry to get to its feet, and then make the further fund available to other enterprises?

The Government will have to think seriously about this, otherwise it will mean that this fund will be made available to Government bodies, whether Federal or Regional and other corporations which are soundly supported by the various Governments. This will make possible a well developed share market when we are in a position to buy the shares for these various industries from the Central Bank; it will also make it possible for the funds to be easily available.

I would also suggest that the Minister of Trade and Industry should have to bear in mind that along with industry must go commerce, and the report on aid to small businessmen, to which I refer, requires urgent implementation. We do hope that it will be to the interest of this country that we hear from the Minister the position about the committee which was set up in that regard. If we do not do anything about it before this House rises, I doubt whether the £250,000 which I saw stacked away in one corner of the estimates will be channelled into the proper enterprises. The sum may be channelled into other businesses by the Minister of Finance who is always very clever in knowing where to channel funds belonging to another project with very convincing arguments. But here he will fail to convince us.

These small businesses, these small *entrepreneurs* should be helped. We may talk, Mr Speaker, of large-scale industry, but we should not forget that this country is still

named by men of very humble beginnings in finance—petty traders, petty exporters and importers, petty motor magnates and so on. We can only help them by developing a sound system that can further their growth financially. With the growth of these small businessmen will come a thoroughly organised growth of our industrial life. If we kill the initiative of these small industrialists we will not get to the top.

This question requires an immediate reply, and I am sure that that reply, coming from a voice that knows what he is doing, will be favourable to small businessmen.

*Mr D. N. Abii 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 accordingly and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee.)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Clause 3.*

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, the point I want to make here is about "Industrial enterprises of a productive nature" which appears in this clause. I want to have a definition of this type of enterprise, whether it includes such projects as mechanisation of farming methods. In this country we are in need of developments in the methods of agriculture. We cannot get on without producing much food, and I would like to know whether mechanised farming methods come under this phrase "industrial enterprises of a productive nature".

**Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) :** Mr Chairman, I support this clause, but I would like to make some observations on it. There are some useful industries that should be set up in this country, such as paper manufacturing industries. We have good woods which could be used for paper manufacturing. We also have other resources too that would help the manufacture of paint for instance. We are marching forward to independence and we must improve the economic development of the country not only by building good roads and nice looking buildings but also by encouraging new industries.



As we have useful natural resources such as those for the making of paint I would ask the Government to give preference to new industries that will help to balance our economy. We have such other things as pottery industry and asbestos industry. I know that people are prepared to have these industries if they are given assistance by the Government. I feel that the Government should give those people all the encouragement they deserve if they are prepared to carry out any useful projects.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on this clause a Member asked a question about a definition contained in the clause. This is an omnibus clause and contains a lot of things that could be interpreted very widely. "The fund may be utilised for providing loans to assist in the establishment, expansion or modernisation of industrial enterprises of a productive character, including the provision of services within Nigeria". I would like the Minister to explain whether it is intended to finance foreign industrial undertakings that apparently come here in combination with Nigerians, usually taking on one Nigerian as a director, or whether this is meant for Nigerians alone. Because it will be no use to Nigerians if foreign personnel come here, get a company registered with a nominal capital and nominal fees, then take one Nigerian and make him a director and apply to this body and say they are qualified. I would like that point clarified—"expansion of and modernisation of industry of a productive character".

What do we mean by that? For instance, you take the industry manufacturing bread. Would that come within this? The modernisation of their machinery? Would that come within the context? Or industry working wood and the rest of them; would that come within the context?

This morning, I commented about industries brewing beer. Will industries preserving palm wine and *burukutu* come within this context? Because these are national drinks.

I notice that recently an American company wanted to popularise its *pepsicola* and invited certain people from the Western Region on its own ticket and paid their fares for the purpose of popularising *pepsicola*. Will this come

within the context of industries of a productive character? One has to be very careful about this.

There is also the question of the provision of services. Will this body give loans to businessmen in order that they may be able to employ people who have the qualification and training, whether they are Nigerians or expatriates, to help them develop their industry? We see here "including provision of service". These things are necessary because the Minister has told us that rules governing this body will be made later on. You have appealed to the Members of this House to tell the people of their constituencies about this fund, and I must know what I am going to talk about. If we are establishing an industry and have not got the people with the necessary qualifications and experience how do we find the personnel to give these businessmen the advice they need under this section—"provision of services"? Will they be considered under that clause? We want a precise and clear definition about this.

**An hon. Member :** Give the Minister time to reply.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** The Minister has time to reply at 3 o'clock; to-day is not a half day.

Also, Sir, there is the question of the internal development of our industries. We would like the Minister of Finance to be very precise in giving us as clear a definition as possible to enable us to advise our constituents adequately.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to reply to a few points made by hon. Members. The point was made, I think, by my hon. Friend Mr Ubani-Ukoma about the meaning of the word "productive". I can only say, Sir, that the word can mean nothing but the word itself. I would like to say further that "productive" should be looked upon from two points. From one angle we would like the enterprise or industry that would be productive, one that would contribute to the national production. We would not like to encourage, for instance, a cinematograph industry or an entertainment house. We would not consider that productive. It is not the type of industry that we would like to give loans for.



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Another meaning I can give to it is that, by the nature of the loans fund itself, it is revolving, and unless you give the loan to a business that has already started, one that already has a beginning so that if you add more money to it it will yield a profit, it will not be easy for the industry to repay the loan and other people who are needy cannot have the money on loan. It is not possible now to define exactly what sort of industry should get this loan and which should not. As I said during my speech on the second reading, we are preparing the regulations which will govern the administration of the loan, and it may well be that I will have to bring the regulations before this House, and if Members will be patient we will be able to define this thing more clearly in the regulations. (*Hear, hear.*)

As regards the point made by my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, I had thought that he would be brief for a change, but as usual he went on indefinitely . . . . .

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Mr Chairman, I do not think it is proper for anyone here to attack the person of hon. Jaja Wachuku over there.

**The Chairman :** I will do my best to protect hon. Members. I do not think that Mr Jaja Wachuku is very offended yet.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** In point of fact, Mr Chairman, I am not moved.

**The Minister of Finance :** I wonder, Sir, whether this loquacious Colleague of mine will be quiet also for a change. I know he is generally loquacious at *Oko Awo*, but he is also being as loquacious as ever here. Mr Chairman, Sir, as regards the point raised by Mr Jaja Wachuku about foreign firms being aided, I made it clear that any foreign industry to be assisted must have a substantial number of Nigerians as members and must also have a scheme to train Nigerian technicians. The Action Group should know that better; they know how they form their companies and put directors on boards.

What I am saying, Mr Chairman, is to try and explain that it may well be that the regulations may indicate this. I have made it clear that this is not going to be a one-sided thing. The most important thing is to be able to train Nigerians and to enable them to carry out these businesses. I think this should satisfy hon. Members.

**Mr O. Bademosi (Ondo South) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to point out to the Minister that the administration of loans in this country involves one snag always, and that is the provision of securities. On many occasions there are people with the know-how, but who have no security. But they have the knowledge. In such cases, Sir, I wish to suggest. . . . .

**The Chairman :** Order, order. It is 1 o'clock, and I am bound to suspend the sitting until 3 o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Mr O. Bademosi :** What I was trying to say before we adjourned for lunch, Mr Chairman, is to ask if the Minister will stretch a point in favour of people who are indeed closely connected with industry; as an example I want to take the case of a building contractor. Well, the ordinary building contractor in this country generally cannot get accommodation for some of this plant and there are certain plant and machinery which are necessary. I want to know if the Minister will be prepared, because it is no use leaving these matters to the discretion of the Board. It will be necessary to have some little bit of definition as to how such class of people whose work is closely contributory to industrial enterprise can be helped. As I was trying to say in the morning, you find that these people are not natives of the Federal territory and therefore may not have property by which guarantee could be provided. Well, I am wondering, Sir, if it will not be possible to take such plant and machinery as a security for this particular loan because in many cases they are all here in the Federal territory working.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this point I want to ask the Minister to consider because there are some cases, real worthy cases, where men, who are going to build the roads and so on,—you cannot call this industry—but they do contribute quite largely to the establishment of industry, and I would want the Minister to give us some little bit of assurance that such men would be accommodated.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, some time ago an hon. Member from that side of the House asked if the Minister would explain what was meant by industry : he



did not ask what was meant by 'productive'. 'Industry' in this particular case is a vague word. Does the word 'industry' include agricultural enterprises as well as the exploitation of natural resources? This is very important indeed and we need to have some explanation on that. Normally if you have some agricultural project and you apply for a loan the Government may say 'no, it does not come under the term industry'. We would like an explanation on that.

Another thing that has just come to my mind is the application of this loan. I was told by an officer about two weeks ago that the Federal loan was confined to industries already existing. I would like to know from the Minister after consulting the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether loans given by the Federal Government are for industries already existing but not for the establishment of new industries, because the other loan already given by Government is for existing industries.

**Chief J. I. C. Onyia (Asaba)** : Mr Chairman, Sir, what is most appealing in this Bill is that the Federal Government does not intend to subordinate as in the past its authority or influence to the Regional Governments. Therefore there is every hope that the loans will be given without any sort of discrimination. I hope that when applications will be considered the Advisory Committee will not make it a point to consult the Regional Government as to whether an applicant is a suitable person to be given a loan.

**An hon. Member** : It is not in paragraph 3.

**Chief Onyia** : That is how far you understand paragraph 3. Paragraph 3 says : "The fund may be utilized for providing loans to assist in the establishment, expansion or modernization of industrial enterprises of a productive character, including the provision of services, within Nigeria." I am asking that in giving this loan to individuals the Federal Government should make its influence felt by not giving the loan *via* Regional Governments but direct to the people concerned in the Region, without going through the Regional Government to find out the sort of people that want this loan. I speak with experience of what I know happens in my own Region.

**Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South)** Mr Chairman, I just want to say a few words about the questioned phrase "of productive character" in Clause 3. This phrase falls within the province of Economics. All labour which is engaged successfully in creating utilities is a productive labour. What is meant by utility? It is the attribute of anything which can satisfy a want. Anything which can satisfy a want has utility. It does not matter whether the thing is temporary or permanent, tangible or intangible.

The other phrase 'including the provision of services' in the clause which has also presented some difficulty is quite in order. Economics is not concerned with psychological or ethical issues. So Mr Chairman, anything which can satisfy a want has utility and constitutes economic wealth.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh)** : Mr Chairman, I am sure my hon. Friend Mallam Maitama Sule has heard the definition of industry as given by my hon. Friend and I would not like to go any further into utility, tangible or intangible. I may just add one to that, that agriculture does not come within the province of the Revolving Loan nor that of the already established Loans Board. It is the responsibility of Regional Governments and they come within the Development Loans Board of the Regional set up.

*Clause 3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**Mr J. A. O. Akande** : The House would like to know what is meant by 'rules made under section 23 of the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958'. Will the Minister explain that?

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** : Mr Chairman, I consider this section the most important in the Bill because by it regulations if not already made will be made for the disbursement of this fund. From the explanation of both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce and Industry I observe that the administration of this fund will serve only the same purpose as that being served by the Industrial Loans Ordinance, 1956, but for one additional advantage that it will cater for services in



[MR AKPAN-UDOH]  
addition to industries. For this reason I wish to recall one or two difficulties that have been experienced in the administration of the Industrial Loans Ordinance, 1956.

**An hon. Member :** Are you a Member ?

**Mr Akpan-Udoh :** Yes, I have been a member for three years. One has been the difficulty arising out of the fixing of the minimum—in those days at £30,000—and it took this House two and half years to pass an amendment bringing down the minimum available to Regional applicants to £10,000. Now we have been told by the Minister concerned that in the administration of this new fund the minimum will also be £10,000 and the maximum £50,000. I note that the only sum available is £200,000 which at £50,000 will just be enough to cover four people and at £10,000 minimum is just enough for twenty people. I have not been assured that the reimbursement of this sum will be simultaneous with the exhaustion of this sum already made available.

So, I wish to say that in the interests of applicants from the rural areas of the Federation the minimum of £10,000 is too much, and it may also happen that after one or two years we may have to pass an amendment to reduce that amount. If the Federal Loans Board is maintaining that minimum of £10,000 I feel that this other fund should provide for a lower minimum. Otherwise, to say that this fund will serve the interests of all sections of the community in the Federation will just be a matter of theory. In fact, it will not because development is highly uneven in the Federation. While people from the big towns can afford to float a project which when evaluated will be worth £10,000 which will entitle them to an award at a minimum of £10,000, people in the rural areas will not be able to run a business of £10,000. So, that is why I am saying that to fix the minimum so high may soon place us in the same difficulty as we experienced in the Federal Loans Board.

The administration of this fund should make it possible for people who run small business or industry to benefit by the fund. It may not be £100 or £200, but why not make it possible for people running a business of £1,000 to £5,000 to benefit from the fund ? That will be quite reasonable. In fact, a Regional Minister had promised that Rafia work in my Division

should be developed. That is why I should press this issue forward, that the minimum should be brought down. That is why I say this section is most important because Regulations are not meant to be ratified by this House. It is the exclusive responsibility of the Minister to issue Regulations. We can only see these in the *Gazettes*.

Mr Chairman, I have often heard reference made to regional applicants that they have the Regional Loans Board to benefit from. But I wish to say that two reasons prevent people from the Regions from benefiting regularly from those funds. One is party politics. It is most glaring in the Western Region. If one is not a staunch Action Grouper I doubt how he can get a loan from the Western Region. The second is, Mr Chairman, that in some of the Regions funds available for development are highly limited and no matter how progressive a man's business may be, if the amount he requires is not available he has to apply to the Federal Government. And this is the second fund we are establishing for such assistance. So I am praying the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce and Industry to take into consideration the idea of so putting up the Regulations that they do not perpetuate the difficulties that had confronted us in the administration of the Industrial Loans Ordinance, 1956.

And there is another snag. This is that applications for funds must be approved by the Governor-General in Council. In the Industrial Loans Ordinance up to the sum of £30,000 required the approval of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. But it appears from what we have heard even a sum of £10,000 must be approved by the Governor-General in Council. As far as the Revolving Loans Fund is concerned I feel in drawing up the Regulations, the Minister should consider what sums should require the approval of the Governor-General in Council. Otherwise, this will be a very retarding factor, making it impossible for people to benefit from the funds at the time they want to.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks, I support the Bill.

*Clause 4 agreed to.*

*Clause 5.*



House of Representatives Debates

1541 [Revolving Loans Fund for 6 AUGUST 1959 Industry Bill : Third Reading] 1542

**Mr J. M. Udochi** (Afenmai) : Mr Chairman, I am not very happy about the way opportunity is taken in this Clause to amend another Ordinance—that is the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance. I feel that the process of discovering the law should not be made unduly difficult. Nobody will have thought that if a man wants to know something about the Finance (Control and Management) Ordinance he will have to refer to a completely different Ordinance to find that out. I merely wish to record that I feel that this should not be taken as a precedent for future cross reference amendments of Ordinances.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support this Clause.

*Clause 5 agreed to.*

*Preamble agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

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

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East) : I would like to remind the Minister about the observation I made during the Second Reading of this Bill. I am aware that there is a National Economic Council but I am not aware that the function of that body covers economic planning as well. Correct me if I am wrong. If there is such a body we would like to have more evidence of its activities. If there is none, then it is about time that such a body was created, because founding an industry is like a snowball : as it rolls along it grows bigger and bigger. I think that they should seriously consider now the setting up of an economic planning body to look into these things and advise the Ministers—or the Council of Ministers—concerned.

Sir, I hope that this will not be allowed to pass by the Board, but that action will be taken on it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, enough has been said about the loan of this kind passing through the Council of Ministers. It has been mentioned by my good friend over there that the Council of Ministers approving a loan of £10,000 is unnecessary. Just because this is a revolving loan it has to go to the Council of Ministers,

and yet for an ordinary loan from the already existing Loans Board £30,000 is the limit for a Minister to approve. Well, I think this will contribute another bottle-neck which, as the Minister of Commerce and Industry said, he does not want to see. He says the thing must be done quickly and the manner he says is so brief that you could almost see the thing happening by the time the word left his mouth. We know what a ponderous body can be ; and by ponderous I mean ponderous. Even the people who will sit on it are ponderous. How much more all the lurking that goes on, and by the time wheels turn round we shall have lost a lot of time.

I wonder whether you would not consider very seriously revising that part of the arrangement. We want this thing to be done expeditiously—I like the word *expeditious*—and I do not know whether the Minister would accept the role of an “expediter”, with apologies to the former Minister for that portfolio.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City) : I would like to make the same comment in order to show how extremely important that particular point that has just been raised by the last speaker is. It is necessary that we give the Minister a free hand in this particular case. If we are really giving out these loans in order to help the industrialists, that is the more reason why we should allow the Minister to approve the loans if the recommendations have come from the Board. If the Minister has been doing that all along with the ordinary Loans Board, why not with this Board ? The Minister has every right to approve a loan of £30,000 in the ordinary Loans Board ; why not with this Board ?

That is the first point, and secondly I wish to say that this Bill is an excellent Bill. It is now going to be passed into law, but I hope that the fact that the Federal Government is anxious to help the enterprises both indigenous and expatriate (expatriate only if and when there is indigenous participation in it) this will not be used to the detriment of the people as has been the case in the past.

To-day in the North, Sir, big firms have descended so low to the level of the ordinary middlemen and are vigorously competing with them. To-day, Sir, our small businessmen who have all these years been engaged in the



[MR FANI-KAYODE]  
same way he has come again for this. He has told us that it is a simple and straight-forward Bill. We have heard the same words from him here before. I am saying, Sir, that any Regulation that is to be passed should be sanctioned not by the Minister but by the Council of Ministers or at least brought before this House so that we can scrutinise it properly. If not, Sir, we shall be getting dubious and frivolous explanations as to why and why not the Regulations are not made to fit Nigerians.

He said, Sir, that a certificate of competency should be given to members of the crew. I am certain that this House will not give a certificate of competency to this Minister in view of his past performance.

**The Minister of Transport** (hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Mr Ajasin who made quite constructive comments on the Bill—the type of comment that is expected of somebody who is responsible—that the size of shipping boats will determine the number of the crew that will be required to hold certificates of competency. That is why the power of survey of these vessels is extended. It is the officer who is surveying the vessel who will determine the number of crew that should hold this certificate of competency in order to make that boat safe for human beings in the sea-fishing industry.

I have noted what the hon. Bademosi has said about canoes. I would like to say that already Regulations have been made and these Regulations are always made by the Governor-General-in-Council. My friend, the hon. Fani-Kayode, probably does not know that. He spends all his time writing and reading the "Daily Service" but he does not know the simple things that he ought to know on this issue. I have noted what the hon. Bademosi has said.

I now come to the question of the very frivolous remarks made by my friend, Mr Fani-Kayode. I will refer him to section 52 of the principal Ordinance which deals with the power to make Regulations. He is a lawyer and he will read that. If he had taken the trouble to consult that, he would have found that the power is vested in the Governor-General-in-Council. Also, referring to the other points which he made about shipping,

I am quite sure that although he now plays the role of a doubting Thomas—he sees what is good for the country and he will not accept it—he should know that whatever I did was done with the full support of members of the Council of Ministers. Everything that I did was done with their consent.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee).

*Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

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

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): This is a matter which could have been left to the good sense of those who are going to interpret the law, but for the sake of those who might inadvertently fall within the warm embrace of the law it might be better when framing laws of this kind which could be interpreted in dubious translation that our words be clearly defined. Here we find fishing boats. Well, in the explanation of the Minister it appears that he meant powered fishing boats and that ordinary canoes which are not powered will not come within this Bill. I am really saying that, of course, the person who is drafting the law would understand the powered, but if there are lawyers who are very clever they will probably say canoes cannot be brought within the ambit of this law. I just want the Minister to tell us and clear this point whether he meant powered or not powered canoes or otherwise.

**Mr C. C. E. Onoh** (Udi): Since the object of this Bill is to provide safety for people travelling on land and sea I think the Minister of Transport being responsible for travelling over land and sea will in due course bring in a Bill to help to give certificate of competency to Omolanke pushers.



House of Representatives Debates

1549

[Shipping and Navigation  
(Amendment) Bill]

6 AUGUST 1959

[Adjournment]

1550

**The Minister of Transport** (hon. R. A. Njoku): I would like to say that the Ministry of Transport is not responsible for road transport. Secondly, as regards the point raised by hon. T. T. Solaru, I would like to say that canoes are not brought in the regulations to be made under this Ordinance and they are also not bound by the provisions of this Ordinance, but only powered craft.

*Question put and agree to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn: (The Minister of Education).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at six minutes to four o'clock.*



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]  
Government will give the guarantee and notify the House at its next Meeting. Furthermore, the House will be formally informed of the outstanding liability in respect of the guarantees given by the Government. Clause 4 provides that guarantees given in the past shall be deemed to have been given under this Bill. I will explain in more detail about these guarantees when the Bill reaches the Committee stage.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no one country in the world to-day that has reached its stage of economic development, not even the wealthy United States of America, without loans from within and without the country. We shall not therefore hesitate to support any move by the Government to make it possible for our Statutory Corporations to borrow money for their improvement and expansion. We know only too well that Government has not got enough money to give these Statutory Corporations the money they need for further expansion and improvement. We, know also that we cannot raise enough capital within the country every time to help these Statutory Corporations with the enormous amount of money they will need and will continue to need immediately after their establishment. For a long time to come these Statutory Corporations if they really have to get the money they need will have to depend more and more on foreign loans. But in order that these Corporations may easily get the money they need from abroad somebody must act as a guarantor and Government is the right body to do so.

I would like to say, as the Minister of Finance has already explained, that foreign investors or foreign people would only be too willing to grant these loans to our statutory corporations. To-day there are three countries in the world, the natural wealth of which has not yet been tapped. One is Canada, another is South America, and Africa is the third. These three countries have got an abundance of natural resources yet untapped, and all foreign

investors would only be too willing to go out and invest money in these countries. If we go out and ask for loans from foreign countries they would only be too willing and too anxious to come out here. What we need is a guarantee for these statutory corporations, and I am glad that Government is making provision for that.

But, Sir, we are establishing corporations in this country; we are now making it possible for these corporations to go all out and borrow money for their expansion and improvement. That is an excellent idea. We must not only establish public corporations, but we must also ensure their continued existence, growth and expansion. It is one thing to be able to borrow money and quite another thing to be able to make use of that money. It is gratifying that many of these corporations set up by the Federal Government have made a good start, and I only hope that they will keep it up. There are a number of others for whom it has become necessary for us to raise a finger of warning.

There is a tendency on the part of some statutory corporations sometimes to spend extravagantly, perhaps because of their autonomy with which we have no quarrel, or perhaps because of the large sum of money that they find at their disposal. We are often told, and we often accept the explanation, that these corporations need the best in order that they may be able to pay their way. Yes, but that is no licence for becoming too extravagant.

I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to warn that any money borrowed by any corporation should be used to the best advantage of the corporation but should not be used to pay money for the emoluments of redundant officers who will not be to the best interests of Nigeria. Every penny spent in this country is valuable to us.

Finally, Sir, I wish to emphasize that further response to our demands for loans abroad will depend largely on the way and manner that we spend this money. If we are economical in the way we spend people will be rest assured that we are not asking for more money to be more extravagant. Sir, I support wholeheartedly this Bill.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill, but also I have some misgivings about it. The Bill can be very beneficial and, at the same time, it may lead to



abuse. We have to realise, first of all, that if this Bill is passed it will have to change the whole picture of the Government's relationship with the statutory corporations.

Many times, on the Floor of this House, we have heard Ministers defend certain aspects of the corporations' activities. They say that the corporations are autonomous and that the Minister charged with responsibility for that subject has no responsibility for the day to day operations of the corporation. That is all well and good. But if we are called upon to guarantee the loans made to a corporation we must bear in mind that it is a well known maxim that he who pays the piper must call the tune. This Bill will, therefore, have to change the entire basis of the Government's relationship with the corporations.

Once you guarantee a loan you have to satisfy yourself that it will be used to the best interests of the corporation. And there is only one way of doing that and it is that the Minister, whether he likes it or not, must have to interfere in the day to day activities of the corporation. We do not want to hear from the Ministerial Bench when they make statements about corporations: "We are sorry, it is a statutory corporation and a Minister is not charged with responsibility to interfere". Once this Bill is passed the entire relationship changes and there can be no quarrel about it.

Secondly, because of the way certain statutory corporations have operated in this country I am worried about where they are heading for. I take it that this is a Federal House and I am supporting this Bill because it is presented in this Federal House and it is only applied to the Federal corporations within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government; otherwise I would have no hesitation in opposing it. If the Bill had sought power to guarantee loans to corporate bodies within the competence of Regional Governments I would have opposed it because I know how some corporations in some Regions functioned. I hope, Mr Speaker, that the responsible way in which the corporations which are the creatures of this House have been running will continue.

I must say that I am very very proud of the record which has been made by the various statutory corporations founded by this Federal Government. They have made a record achievement. I can refer to the Ports Authority,

which is doing very well; I can refer to the E.C.N., but perhaps when we come to that. However, the E.C.N. is saving money now, not saving money at human expense, but that corporation is doing really well. Also the Railway Corporation is doing well. Therefore the Government has every right to congratulate itself on the achievement which corporations under its jurisdiction have made.

I do hope that the Bill will help various corporations to carry out their work and also help in making possible other increased aspects of their activities.

The Minister of Finance who moved this Bill is taking advantage of the various successes which the Government has made in the past.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): In the past when you were a member of the Government.

**Dr Mbadiwe**: Even in the present. The Minister of Finance is taking advantage of these successes to introduce this Bill in the hope that the corporations will continue to do well. I see nothing wrong whatsoever in the Bill. All that we hope for is that there must be a constant check; secondly that this Bill will change the relationship of the Government and the corporations. Let the chairmen of the corporations know this—that immediately this Bill is passed Ministers, directly or indirectly, must interfere because it has been accepted that he who pays the piper must call the tune. It was not invented here; it is a statement made by men who have seen things, who have passed through similar experiences.

**Mr S. J. Una** (Uyo): I rise to speak in support of the Bill because of the tremendous improvements made by the Corporations, particularly the Electricity Corporation under the Chairmanship of Dr Eni Njoku. The time has come, Sir, when these Corporations must be given every encouragement and every support to expand and expand as rapidly as possible. I am saying this because of the part certain Corporations are playing in the life of the Nation. Very soon, this country will become Independent and it is high time that these Corporations made themselves felt by the people.



[MR UNA]

A former speaker had made mention of foreign loans to be raised by this Corporation. I do not know why we always look up to foreign countries for foreign loans. Some time ago the Minister of Finance made an appeal to the country for indigenous loan and the appeal was answered very, very spontaneously and generously and I want to give the speaker the assurance that if the Minister of Finance can undertake to appeal to the country for loans to expand the Electricity Corporation the people will welcome it and will support it very warmly, on the understanding that electricity will be supplied not only to townships but to rural areas. This is a serious matter and I am saying this once again that most of the towns in rural areas will refuse and object to celebrate the pending Independence in darkness. We want electricity in Uyo; we want electricity in Warri; we want electricity in Sokoto and other places. I am saying this because I know that electricity can be extended if there is money available and I am saying that if the Federal Government give sufficient encouragement and backing to these Corporations the Corporations will expand to our own satisfaction.

I am very happy that this Bill will only be of Federal application and not to Regional Corporations. We do not want them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr E. C. W. Howard** (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill whole-heartedly. I am very sorry to hear Dr Mbadiwe, for whose business acumen I have very great respect, suggesting that the day-to-day affairs of Public Corporations should be subject to Ministerial or Government interference because it is exactly because there is no such interference that some of the Corporations have been so successful. I want to suggest, Mr Speaker, that the proper way to ensure that the Corporations function properly and do not waste the money that is given them is for this body which nominates members of the Board to take particular care that the people nominated are people who can themselves fulfil this function.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu): Agreed.

**Mr Howard**: That is the way in which the Corporation should be made effective, not by Government or Ministerial interference in day-to-day affairs.

There is one other point on which I would like to comment. It has been suggested by the hon. Member on my right that loans for Corporations might be raised in this country. I have no doubt that many people in this country will support such a loan but, Sir, the difficulty is this, as the Minister of Finance has already said, there are so many things which Nigeria needs money for and not every scheme in this country requires overseas investment. They are accustomed to investing in large undertakings where they can see for themselves how the money is being used. In the case of the Electricity Corporation they can see Power Stations and other efforts. Therefore it is certainly easier to raise loans from overseas for such purposes than it would be for things which may not be so obvious. So, it is right and proper and wise of the Minister and Government to endeavour to make it possible for Corporations to obtain loans from overseas.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with great pleasure that I rise to support this Bill. But before making any comments I want to disabuse the minds of Members on the remarks of my hon. Friend on the left hand side. I hope nobody takes it seriously. He is just one of those who condone the multiplicity of Corporations without considering the consequences of their acts. He therefore has no right to come here to say any thing.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu): I am sure Chief Okotie-Eboh will not agree with you.

**Mr Wachuku**: I am particularly happy, Sir, of the activities of an eminent son of this country who was fulfilling a very useful function in this House on the Ministerial bench but due to the ambition of some people he was removed when he had not in fact fulfilled his destiny. And I am particularly happy to say that the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power sought him out again and put him in office despite the efforts of people to sabotage the efforts of others. It is a warning to people who will oppose others because of their personal ambition. Ministers must always seek out those who can help to create a healthy climate for the economic development of this country in different spheres irrespective of any personal affiliation.

Now, Sir, on this Bill there is need for Government to give support to Corporations, particularly those that are doing well. In this



House, Sir, when I used to sit with my learned and good friend, hon. Akintola over there, I remember when we were waging war against the Electricity Corporation. At that time some of us were asked to find out what was wrong and remedy it. I accepted the challenge and the result has now shown that when people really want to work they can do so.

The Electricity Corporation was able in less than six months to reduce losses of £ $\frac{1}{2}$  million to only £63. In eighteen months it was able to declare £65,000 surplus and the following financial year it has been able to put aside about £417,000 surplus and to make improvements in different fields.

Now, Sir, I want to say this ; I have said it before and I want to say it again even though my friend there has something to say. This has been done because of so many factors. One, Sir, it is a recognition that when a Nigerian heads a Corporation he has identity of interests with the people of this country and therefore he applies himself to the well-being of the country without necessarily having favouritism here and there. I know that in the E.C.N. it was necessary to do a surgical operation and some of the redundant staff who had no business to be there at all had to be removed in order to make the Corporation's work healthy. There you find stores being burnt and no proper account of the whole thing, everything being sold by the back door to contractors and so on. All these things needed a surgical operation to clean them. There are many other things.

Government has to consider when it comes to membership of the Corporations, the quality of Nigerians you put in the Corporations. It is no good putting somebody as a Member of the Corporation who next day goes to the official of the Corporation to ask him for a contract. There are many of them there who are no good as members of the Corporations. A member of a Corporation goes to an employee to look for contract. What type of management do you expect there? It will be weak because he is making himself cheap as far as his employee is concerned. Therefore when you put people in Corporations, if they are going to be effective, they must be people who appreciate their responsibilities. At the moment I know people in the Railway

Corporation and some of the other Corporations who spend their time crawling around officials looking for contract. Such people are no good in the Corporations and I want the Government to make sure that people you appoint to the Corporations are people who do not have that type of interest. If they had business which they were doing before and declare it, that is a different thing, but this crawling type who see only the emoluments and allowances and contracts as the only reason for being members of the Corporation are no good to this country. They are no good to the Federal Corporations. I do not know what they do in the Regions. Qualitative representation in the Corporations is what is required. If this money you are going to guarantee is not to be thrown down the drain, therefore, the Federal Government must be wary about the appointment of Nigerians to the Corporations and examine them carefully.

Now, Sir, people will accuse me as an apostle of Nigerianisation. There are two things—the necessity now to consider the Nigerianisation of the Chairmanship of the respective Corporations and also the fact that each Corporation should be able to prepare a policy statement on the scheme of Nigerianisation within the Corporation and submit to the responsible Minister and the Minister will lay such policy paper on the Table of this House to enable us to know how to deal with them.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Gentleman is going outside the confines of this Bill. We are talking about loans.

**Mr Wachuku :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I was just developing my point. We want to find means whereby we can save money and one of the ways we can save money is to reduce expenditure that will be made in the payment of salaries, emoluments, allowances and so on to people.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Gentleman must leave that point.

**Mr Wachuku :** Well, a Member has said here that he wanted Ministerial interference in this matter. I do not agree that the Minister should interfere in the day-to-day working of the Corporations but there may be some times when the Minister may have to interfere when it is quite clear that certain decisions cannot be in the best interests of the country and in the best interests of the Corporation or of the



[MR WACHUKU]

Government. But then, Sir, I said it before, and I will continue to repeat it. The decision that Members of the House should not be Members of Corporations was wrong, very wrong. It was at the Constitutional Conference, I know, and there has been legislation about it. But I think it is wrong and I want the Government to think over it again. In England you could do that because in the universities, colleges, business houses, in Parliament, you have different people with the same grade of training in different places and so you can pick and choose wherever you are. We have not got all the men here.

**Mr Speaker :** This is not a debate on the Corporations' administration and formation.

**Mr Wachuku :** Now, in that respect, Sir, if this loan is going to be safeguarded, the House must have its eyes there. The Minister is one of the eyes of the House. Members of the House are also eyes of the House and in order to make sure that a loan that is obtained on behalf of the House and the Government is secure, Members of the House, maybe in few numbers, must be considered to be there because they have great influence on the members of the Corporations for when the finances are being considered, Sir, they fear that if anything goes wrong these people will come to the House and report and that will make people wary about what they do. So our financial control will have two channels, the Ministerial channel and the House channel through Members. I leave that point, Sir.

Now, in considering this loan, I want to put it on record. We have various Corporations, the Coal Corporation, the Electricity Corporation, the Ports Authority and so on. There is one Corporation when considering this loan that I would like to see established, and that is the Iron and Steel Corporation. It should be a State concern and the Government should consider that in looking for loans.

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. speaker must confine himself to this Bill.

**Mr Wachuku :** Now, Sir, the other point I want to make is that considering this loan, particularly with reference to the E.C.N., I think the Government has in mind some projects connected with the Shiroro Gorge and the Jebba Dam which will require large capital. A member has mentioned loans from people in this country, but such schemes do

take large sums of money, probably about £150 million, and at the moment I do not think the local people can afford that. You have to go outside and when such a scheme, Sir, is in the offing, I would like the Minister responsible to consider the advisability of circulating the report of these two projects to Members of the House so that they familiarise themselves with the projects that the Government and the Corporations have in mind to appreciate the purpose of this Bill.

With these remarks, I only have to say that this Bill is opportune and Members of the respective Corporations will welcome the Bill because of the great assistance it will give them and the authority that will be behind them in trying to raise the necessary funds in order to develop the various projects they have in view. With this, Sir, I support the Bill.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, at the risk of repeating what others have said, I will try to confine myself to commenting upon the welcome change that has come upon our Corporations or is coming upon them. The very fact of the emergency of this Bill is a signal that our Corporations are coming of age. It is also a signal that our Government and, I believe, its people, that is the people of Nigeria, are coming to have some confidence in the Corporations. Two or three years ago it would have been impossible to ask that a Bill of this sort be brought forward to enable the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to borrow money from abroad. But the very fact that that Corporation has made good, in fact so signally I think, that would encourage other corporations to follow in their footsteps. And that is why I say at the risk of repeating what others have said, that these have been brought about because Nigerians who serve in these Corporations have tried their best and have ignored criticisms, destructive ones, and discouragements from all sides and of all kinds. They have done their duty to see that this Corporation pays its way.

It is not so simple as you think, it means heated debate in the chambers. It means ill-will from people who think that they have the right to squander the funds of the Corporation. I will particularly draw the attention of Mr Minister and hon. Members of the House to the fact that some of us feared the past deeds



of these Corporations because they have tended to become Government within the Government. Any time a question is asked here they say they are autonomous and they come back here to us when they are in debt. We have to find the money and yet can say nothing about the spending of it, except through those members who serve in them. And if there are some of them, as hon. Jaja Wachuku was saying (only insects crawl, is it not? only insects crawl on their belly). If some of them crawl around for contracts, then loans from this fund will be frittered away.

I dare say, Sir, that you have to take to heart the remark made by hon. Jaja Wachuku because he served in this Corporation and he knew what sort of wrongs took place before the Electricity Corporation began to pay its way. There is another danger which the Corporations constitute, they constitute themselves into a menace. I tell you why, Sir; it is because the extravagant emoluments offered in these Corporations are such that it has become impossible for all other Government Departments to find qualified staff. If anything, to-day I know that qualified people are at a premium. But is the Government going to pay a premium that it can ill afford? Why the Government set the salary of graduates at a little over £600, what does the Corporation set them at?—fantastic.

Well, now, Sir, it is the duty of the Government, if you are going to guarantee the expenditure of these people you must put a ceiling to the salary that could be paid. How can your ward spend more extravagantly than yourself? It means that if you put your hands in this Bill with your two eyes open; it means you are going to guarantee the expenditure of a spendthrift. I hope that none of our committee will continue to be spendthrifts. But it means that if they drag people from other offices or they are attracted by these fabulous salaries, it is all right for the people who get them, but it is not all right for the country as a whole. And I think the Government should see all round with the guarantee, that these Corporations are not extravagant in their style of expenditure.

And having said that, we must not also be deaf to the complaint of those who work in the Corporations; after all we call them the arms

of the Government—the commercial arms of the Government. Government cannot trade; we want these Corporations to pay their way and that is why we constituted them into statutory bodies. We want them to pay.

I would like to point out, Sir, that it is up to them to justify our confidence that they are already becoming really business houses. Sir, you will see in the past that this has not been the case. Those who work in these Corporations tell us it is all right for you in the Government Departments to seek how to Nigerianise, but the Corporations are now the dumping grounds of the die-hard expatriates who think this country is a pocket borough. I am not used to speaking in that way, but you will see that there are some people who ought to have their neck wrung because of the things they do. They say one thing and do another. Not only that, even the lowly posts that should go to Nigerians who are so employed, you find that by some hook or crook they turn round to themselves as in the Nigerian Railway. I tell you that in Corporations all twistings and turnings are done there as in the Railway Workshops, and is that why you are going to guarantee the loan to these people?

I dare say you must exercise some vigilance. I do not know how you are going to exercise it, but you must exercise it and see that the accredited representatives of this country will owe their allegiance to this country and not to their belly.

Having said that, Sir, I welcome this Bill because it is a sign of the coming-of-age of our Corporations and we hope that their coming-of-age will prove not only that they are ready for the front door key but also to make their contribution to the economic prosperity of this country. I support.

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** (South Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with these Members who have expressed their views on this Bill. There is one point which I want to raise. The Minister of Finance who introduced this Bill should see and ascertain that an adequate rate of interest is charged on any loan so granted.

I will at this stage warn the Minister also to grant loan to any incorporate body that will use it to the best interest of all sections of the



[MR AJASIN]

During the last meeting of the House I mentioned that the Federal Government could make its influence felt in the rural areas by making provision for such things as electricity and telephones. There was a suggestion by some people in this House that the Prime Minister should travel round the Regions and some of the principal towns in the country. But that will not help, as doing something for the people in the provinces and in these rural areas. When these corporations obtain the money which will be guaranteed by the Federal Government, it should not be spent in the urban areas alone but the other towns in the regions should be remembered. We should know that the Western and the Northern Regions have given loans before to the corporations, particularly the Electricity Corporation, to help in the development of electricity in the regions. So the Federal Government also should do something about that to strengthen the hands of these corporations. (*Hear, hear*).

But there is one thing more that had been mentioned by some of the previous speakers. It is about the personal emoluments of the people working in the corporations. It should be noted that members of these corporations are working under a different system from what exists in the Government. The service conditions are quite different; they have no pension rights as in the civil service; and so if they are given salaries over and above what the other Government servants receive they should not be grudged at. The only thing is that the salaries should not be so excessive as to ruin the business of the corporation. So the Minister will have to keep this in mind, that these people should be given sufficient salaries because their service conditions are quite different from what obtains in the civil service.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to express the view that in setting up these statutory corporations, our Federal Government should not delegate its function to the Regional Governments in the appointments of members, because in so doing the Federal Government is losing its own influence or subordinating its own influence to the Regional Government. I am asking the Federal Government to undertake appointments and decisions on them direct.

**Mr Speaker**: Order, Order! This speech, and I can say the previous speech too, were much more relevant to the second reading and not really relevant to third reading which is, in fact, strictly limited to loans and the manner of raising them and their administration.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma** (Aba): I wish to get some information from the Minister as to the policy of choosing nations from which loans can be raised. I do not know whether the Government has any policy at all, because I see that the Ministers go to different places and it is not worthwhile for loans to be raised from every country on the globe. We must have loans raised from friendly nations. To encourage foreign investment is quite different from loans, and you know that Nigeria will soon take her seat in the comity of nations, and so we should not go there as a debtor country.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Just one word, Sir. There has been quite a lot of misapprehension about what has been said about service conditions in the corporations. I want the House to link that up with loans, that the Government have guaranteed the loans of the corporation. They have to guarantee their loans. If you guarantee people's loans and you cannot even say anything about the extravagance of their expenditure, it seems to be a bankrupt system. And, therefore, I want these to be related to the fact that the Government do not guarantee the loans and losses run by commercial houses. If Government set up these corporations and have to guarantee them, then it is for the Government to see that the money is wisely spent. A word is enough for the wise.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

NIGERIAN NAVY (CHANGE OF TITLE) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the re-naming of the Nigerian Navy on the conferment thereon of the title "Royal" and to amend the Nigerian Navy Ordinance, 1956 accordingly, be read a second time.



Sir, this is a very short Bill and I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to what was written in the White Paper when Government was planning to establish the Nigerian Navy in 1956. Now, the Nigerian Navy had to satisfy certain conditions before the word "Royal" was conferred upon it. I am glad to say, Sir, that the Commander-in-Chief of the South Atlantic and South America was able to inspect the Units of our Navy last December, and had recommended the title "Royal" should be conferred upon the Nigerian Navy, and the Queen has graciously agreed to do so.

I have no doubt also that all the Members will be pleased to hear that the Nigerian seamen who are now undergoing training in the various naval establishments in the United Kingdom are doing very well (*Hear, hear*) and that we had a frigate which was presented to us by the United Kingdom Government and has been handed over to the Commissioner for Nigeria. The frigate is now in training with the Royal Navy and I think it will be here with us about October. (*Applause*). I have no doubt, that this Bill is a welcome Bill and that all sides of the House will support it.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Bill. This is a welcome Bill no doubt. It shows the interest that Her Majesty, the Queen, is having for the people and I am sure this House will agree with me that this young Navy which has just been established a year ago has made tremendous progress and it is because of this progress that Her Majesty the Queen has found it possible that the word "Royal" should be assigned to it.

This House will remember that when Her Majesty the Queen visited this country it was the same progress that the Nigerian Military Force made before she conferred the title "The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment" and I am happy to record our appreciation to Her Majesty the Queen for giving this country the frigate which has just been handed over to the

Commissioner for Nigeria in London. This shows the interest that Her Majesty's Government is making towards the attainment of independence of this great nation. So, with these few remarks I beg to support.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is said that there is nothing in a name. A rose by any other name is still a rose, but here we find that a change of name confers a lot of dignity. Therefore, I beg to support.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor** (Western Ijaw): I rise to support the Bill and while doing so I would like to pay tribute to the Director of the Naval Force Mr Skutil who is now on retirement. Sir, the Nigerian Naval Force is one of the Government Departments that would contribute to the progress of this country. Now, Sir, I have always said it in this House that people who are being employed into that Department. . . .

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola). . . should come from Ijaw !

**Mr Ezonbodor** : Sir, it is no use—I do not want to discriminate but there is one thing Mr Speaker—we have certain people in this country who are adapted to water and certain people who are adapted to land. You jeopardise the man's life if simply because we say we are not going to discriminate you employ people anyhow. For instance, get a man on the land who does not know how to swim to be employed in the Navy and you get him to the sea. What do you see ? The operation of his mind will be very unsteady and not only that, you also jeopardise his life. I do not say that there should be discrimination but I am trying to say that people who are employed in this Naval Force should be people who are adapted to the water.

**Mr Speaker** : This is quite irrelevant.

**Mr Ezonbodor** : What I was trying to say is that, not that the Ijaws alone are expert swimmers. We have the Efiks, the Itsekiris, Ukwanis and so on.

**Mr Speaker** : I ask the hon. Member not to go on with this point.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Preamble agreed to.*



*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

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

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West) : While I am supporting the Third Reading of this Bill, I just wish to appeal to the Government to make all possible efforts to encourage young Nigerians to join the Royal Navy (*Hear, hear*).

*Question, That the Bill be now read the Third Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

*Sitting suspended : 10.30 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 10.40 a.m.*

#### EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for second reading read.*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Evidence Ordinance, be now read a Second Time.

Under subsection (3) of section 224A of the Evidence Ordinance, a certificate by the Registrar responsible for the country's criminal records is acceptable as evidence of the conditions set out in it, and of the fact that the finger prints in the certificate are those of the person convicted, if taken at the time of the conviction.

Hitherto, the particulars supplied in such certificates have been copied from the central records by hand. But it would be much more accurate, much more reliable and less laborious, and definitely cheaper if, instead of the copy which is now being made by hand, we have a provision for photographic copies of the records themselves.

This procedure, no doubt, if the legislature gives sanction to it, will make it possible for photographic copies of records to be admissible in evidence. This will rule out the possibility of any mistakes being made in the process of copying and I think it will further the cause of justice. The provisions of this Bill will, no doubt, be acceptable to the Chief Justice of the Federation, and the Chief Justices of the Regions have also agreed to the amendment which I am proposing to-day.

I have no doubt that the House will welcome this amendment and I think the hon. Members of the Bar will also accept this as a very useful amendment to our Evidence Ordinance. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**M. Sanni Okin** (North Ilorin) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill, but in doing so I have some comments to make. The evidence as we all believe is more important than the judgment of the Judge or Magistrate, because judgment is mainly based on the evidence given before the Court. But in the past, people giving evidence, with particular reference to Moslems were always asked to act against their will by forcing them to act against their religious obligations : and that is by asking them to swear on the Koran. People were not asked to perform ablution. But to-day in all the Magistrates' and High Courts of the Northern Region, Moslems are asked to perform ablutions before giving evidence before the Court. I appeal that, in criminal proceedings before the Court, Moslems should be asked to perform ablutions before giving evidence.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**Adetunji Aiyeola, Afolu II, Oba** (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is said that photographic copies certified of particulars will be taken. I would like to appeal to the Minister to see that photographers who will be responsible for taking copies of the evidence will be really experts and not one of these quack photographers who parade the streets.

**Mr C. C. E. Onoh** (Udi) : Going through the Bill, Mr Chairman, it says : "or, a photographic copy certified as such of particulars relating to a conviction as entered in the said records". If I am correct, the Federal Supreme Court has ruled that a photographic copy is not sufficient ; there must be a negative.



House of Representatives Debates

1577 [Widows' and Orphans' Pension 7 AUGUST 1959 (Amendment) Bill : Second Reading] 1578

In many criminal cases I know, when we present a photographic copy the Judges have always asked for the negative. Can I understand that the Minister will make sure that the negative will also be available ?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** I am grateful for the interest Members showed in this. In the first place I am quite sure that our Courts will not rely on photographic copies made by people who are not experts in the field. The professional competence of the photographer will play a prominent part in deciding whether or not a copy should be accepted in evidence. I am quite sure that when this amendment is passed the Supreme Courts' Rules may be modified in such a way as to provide for the point made by hon. Onoh, and that is, if at the moment photographic copies as such are not acceptable without the negative. I am quite sure that when this amendment is passed with the proper certification photographic copies will be accepted in evidence.

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that an Ordinance to amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance be now read a second time.

Hon. Members will recollect, Sir, that during the 1958 Budget Meeting, this House passed a Bill into law which allowed contract officers the option of withdrawing their contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. When introducing that Bill I emphasised that contract officers appointed in the Public Service were not likely to remain for any considerable period, and that in view of this, it was not appropriate to oblige them to contribute to the scheme which was envisaged, in the first instance, for long-service pensionable officers. The Bill therefore, allows contract officers already in the Service the option of withdrawing and debars future contract officers from contributing to the Scheme.

The option to withdraw applies to all contract officers who, were currently contributing to the Scheme on the 31st day of March, 1958 and that option had to be exercised before the 31st day of December, 1958. Since that Ordinance was passed, Sir, a considerable number of officers who were originally pensionable and who were obliged to contribute to the Scheme have been granted retrospective transfers to contract terms of employment. The position of these officers is therefore, that due to the change in their conditions of Service, they are the public contract officers currently contributing to the Scheme on the 31st day of March, 1958. They have not, however, had the opportunity of electing to withdraw from the Scheme before the expiration of the option period. It is clearly desirable that provision should exist to enable all such officers to enjoy all the privileges of their newly acquired status.

The Bill which is now before this House amends the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance to allow an election to withdraw from the Scheme to be accepted at a later date than the 31st day of December, 1958, if the Governor-General is of the opinion that the circumstances of the case warrant such acceptance. It also enables the Officers concerned to exercise the option which, through no fault of their own, they were not able to make earlier.

I hope that hon. Members will agree that this is only fair to those concerned and I commend the Bill to the House for acceptance. Sir, I beg to move.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (M. Shehu Shagari) : Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba) : What I would like to know from the Minister is why these people were converted from pensionable posts to the contract posts. It is ridiculous. While they were in a pensionable post they were allowed the period up to December to elect. They elected after that period. Why were they allowed to do so ?

**An hon. Member** : Democracy !

**Chief Onyia** : But according to your explanation, they were supposed to elect before the 31st December. After that period they



[CHIEF ONYIA]  
were still in the Service as pensionable officers and elected afterwards. That has brought a complexity. It is so very ridiculous.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

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

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSIONS  
(SPECIAL APPLICATION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the Bill for an Ordinance to provide authority for certain persons in the employment of the Nigerian Coal Corporation to continue to contribute under the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Ordinance and to be entitled to benefits thereunder accordingly be read a second time.

Briefly, the proposal of this Bill is to regularise the position under the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme of certain Government officers who transfer to the Nigerian Coal Corporation. When the Coal Corporation was established Government officers were offered posts in the Service of the Corporation and were offered certain terms and conditions of Service. One of the conditions of Service which was agreed by the Government was that they would be required to continue to contribute to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme. It is now clear that this was at variance with the terms of the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme. In fact, under the terms of the Ordinance, the officers should have been given the option of withdrawing from the Scheme or electing to continue to contribute at the rates they were contributing immediately prior to their transfer.

The officers named in the schedule to the Bill have, as a result of the conditions of Service, been contributing to the Scheme at steadily increasing rates based on their salaries, but by

virtue of the provisions of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance their dependants will not be eligible to receive benefits commensurate with these increased contributions.

The Bill now before the House, Sir, regularises the position of these officers by providing that their dependants will, in the event of the Officers' death, receive the full benefit based on the contributions which they have been required to make by reasons of their conditions of Service.

Here, again, I think that Members will be sympathetic to this Bill and approve it without contention. Sir, I beg to move.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (M. Shehu Shagari): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill I would like the Minister of Finance to say whether the same position applies to Africans. If it does not, I would like to ask why, because you will agree that recently a Works' Foreman was killed just at the railway crossing while on duty near Iddo. That meant that, even though the Officer may be a pensionable Officer, as a result of that accident he ceases to enjoy that pension. Automatically, his wife becomes a widow and his children orphans. Africans should be considered under this Scheme. They should be asked to contribute so that they will benefit. A Civil Servant should be allowed to contribute to this Fund because it helps the relatives after death.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

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

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn: (The Minister of Finance).*



**Mr Speaker** : I have a notice from Chief Onyia. Has Chief Onyia an arrangement with the Prime Minister to raise this subject ?

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba)** : Yes. Mr Speaker, Sir, during the laying of the foundation stone of the National Hall this morning, Members of the Legislature were thrown to the back seat. We Members of this House did not feel very happy about it when we found that those who are not as important or more important than ourselves were kept in front to shield our views. . . . After all, we are the representatives of the people and I think we should be accorded a dignified position. To throw us to the back seats does not seem to confer any dignity at all.

When photographs were taken, we were all more or less knocked out and only those in front were conspicuous. Mr Speaker, the foundation stone was being laid purposely to house the Members of this Legislature next year until the new House is ready, and yet these very people who are going to be housed were sent to the back seats.

Sir, I am very sorry to record that some of us have felt that they have similarly been treated in the past. There was an occasion when some of us had to grumble. Civil servants and certain other people who are not more important than ourselves were kept in front of us. I do not need to mention them.

However, before ending, I should seize this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to record my favourable impression of the ceremony of this morning. Indeed, Nigeria has been constitutionally patterned for the unity of this country. So far so good. If I forget everything personally, I will not forget the sound of the trumpet of this morning which pierced into my bones.

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola, Afolu II (Ijebu Remo)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak to this Motion but I will be brief. It has become the custom of the Government to relegate Members of the Legislature to the background when occasions such as we had this morning arise. It happened in February 1956, when the Queen was presenting new colours to the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment at the Racecourse. The weather was very bad on that day and Members of the Legislature had to be put in the background and they had no cover over their heads. I hope that the Government will take heed of this advice.

**M. Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (S.W. Central Kano)** : Mr Speaker, there is nothing wrong with the seating plan about which the hon. Chief Onyia is complaining. It shows, Mr Speaker, that we are responsible gentlemen. The public were invited in our name and so it does not matter where we sit. That is the logic of it. *(Interruption)* Mr Speaker, Sir, you can quarrel with the speaker but you cannot argue with the logicity of the speech. It is the civil servants and the people from the rural areas who have sent us here. We are inviting all these various people, so it does not matter where we are seated. We are the hosts and I hope that we will be good hosts, not selfish hosts. Let us be responsible and good hosts. If I like, I can make my turban taller or add another feather.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I only rise to add to the protest made by Chief Onyia. I am speaking on behalf of some of the guests who attended, those who were unfortunate enough to take their seats immediately behind Chief Onyia. They complained bitterly that their views were obstructed. The feathers were so tall and the beads were so heavy that those who sat behind him could not see anything at all !

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu)** : Mr Speaker, I think that this debate on the subject raised by Chief Onyia is timely and he should be congratulated for that. Mr Speaker, the order of precedence is so well laid down in other civilised countries of the world that it does not require any debate to know what is right or wrong in these circumstances. There is Crown taking precedence, there is the Executive arm which is the Prime Minister and his Ministers, there is the Legislature, the Speaker, Members of this House, there is the Judiciary—the Chief Justice and so on. . . . *(Cheers)* . . . Sir, when the Crown takes precedence in a conspicuous way, the Prime Minister leads his Cabinet to their correct place, then the Speaker, the Parliament, the symbol of authority, move in ; then the Chief Justice of the Federation in that sedate regalia, the preserver and stabiliser of human society. I have said to the Prime Minister time and time again that there is need to be appointed in this country before long a Protocol Officer to direct the ceremonials. Sir, mankind without the ceremonial touch is no life at all. . . . .



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Saturday, 8th August, 1959

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

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

(1) Annual Report of the British West African Meteorological Services for the year, 1956 ;

(2) Report of the Advisory Committee on Aids to African Businessmen.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (M. Shehu Shagari) :** Sir, I rise to make the following business statement for the week ending Saturday, 15th August.

On Monday 10th August the House will continue the debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill—Second Day.

Tuesday, 11th August will be Private Members' Day and Private Members' Motions will be debated.

Wednesday, 12th August, the House will go into Committee of Supply—First Day.

Thursday, 13th August, Committee of Supply—Second Day.

Friday, 14th August, after the presentation of the Bill on Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) the House will go into Committee of Supply on that day.

On the same day the hon. Minister of Finance will present the Third Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and also a Motion on Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1959-60.

On Saturday, 15th August the following Bills will be read the Second and Third Time :

The hon. the Prime Minister will present the Second Reading of the Special Constables Bill.

The hon. the Minister of Education—Education (Lagos) (Amendment) Bill.

The hon. the Minister of Research and Information—Scientific and Industrial Research Bill.

The hon. the Minister of Transport—Ports (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill.

The hon. the Minister of Research and Information—Agriculture (Control of Importation) Bill and Agriculture (Lagos) Bill.

The hon. the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—Lagos Town Planning (Amendment) and Queen's Garden and Glover Hall (Amendment) Bills.

The hon. the Minister of Research and Information—Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill.

ORDER OF THE DAY

*Supplementary Appropriation 1959-60 Bill (1st Allotted Day): Adjourned Debate on Question (6th August). That the Bill be now read a Second Time.*

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I humbly rise to support this Bill which seeks for a further Appropriation of £1,174,750 for the services of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill I find it necessary to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government for her successes during these five years. I feel, Mr Speaker, that the present Government has registered greater development in this country than ever before. It is also necessary to remember that this Government has so advertised this country that the credit-worthiness of this country has been accepted all over the world and this makes it possible that whenever we seek any loan it is possible for the Minister of Finance to get it very easily.

I also think, Mr Speaker, that it is necessary to congratulate the Government for being able to make it possible for the whole world to accept that Nigeria can be united. This point is necessary to be said in this House because when we came here early in 1955 it was doubtful that the Northern people, the Eastern people, and the Western people could come together to demand a Government, one Government for one Nigeria and for the same people. (*Hear, hear.*) (*An hon. Member : What about Cameroons ?*) I have very purposely left out the Southern Cameroons because of the present situation of things there and I hope it is sensible that they attach themselves to this country that has given them a sound allocation of funds, but if they do not Nigeria shall have no regret.



I wish, Mr Speaker, also to say that the present Government needs a special congratulation. It is in their time that Great Britain has applied good sense in accepting to grant Independence to Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*). If the Prime Minister and his Members in the Council of Ministers had been very unfortunate people I do not think that Great Britain would ever have accepted to give us our Independence in their time. I think it is a pride for the Prime Minister and the Members of the Council of Ministers and all Members of this House that we have succeeded to make Britain give us independence without bloodshed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to register further praise particularly for the British people. I wish to say so because I have personally experienced that the people of Britain have very special love for this country. It is not the question of somebody telling you unless you do not want to use your commonsense. I feel the British have shown the people of this country that they will ever continue to have an interest in this country and that I say because they have very willingly helped us and have given us financial help, sometimes very gratuitously.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would make this point because in our own way of life in Africa if you love somebody you must protect his life. If you support a child and you give him food and everything that he wants and if there is somebody coming up to beat him it is your duty also to protect him because it is your responsibility to look after that child.

The other point I wish to make, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that of the attitude of our British Government who love Nigeria so much, and the question of the intention of the French people to carry out their atomic bomb test in the Sahara. This has given us food for thought. It does not appear that the British Government has come out in all her forces to persuade the French people to stop testing this atomic bomb in the Sahara. I would only wish to emphasise that we have accepted the British as our protectors and we hope that the British people will go all out to see that France does not carry out this atomic bomb test.

**Mr Speaker:** I do want to protect myself

against further attempts to discuss that subject on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill because we shall be discussing that subject most probably on Tuesday and that is a much better time to do it.

**Mr Abii :** I am sorry to bring out that point. I congratulate the present Government for her foresightedness. In the present Bill, Mr Speaker, you will find that under the vote for which money is being sought is to make the foundation and specification of public buildings in this country stand the test of time. I wish to say that the present Government has done much in trying to build many houses of architectural nature and I feel that they have copied this from other parts of the world. Britain and America and other important countries of the world have always shown in their buildings their greatness and their culture, but Mr Speaker, if you look around you will see the Central Bank, the Prime Minister's Office, the Offices of the Minister of Finance and the New National Hall being erected. I think if you look at these buildings you will not see any culture of Nigeria on them. I am not saying that the Government does not know what it is doing but I wish to express that there is no sign of that yet. In this issue there can be a kind of art, artistic work to show the emblem of the North, the East and the West. After all, this is the Federation we do not want to have books written on it; it is the question of making something on the wall of this House that anybody who comes in can look at.

I think, Mr Speaker, if you go to England without having any trouble you can see the beginning of the history of England, and if this country is going to take her position in the world it is necessary to show the history of this country in our public buildings. Government is intending to make ready for the Independence Square. A lot can be done in it and Mr Ben Enwonwu, the Art Adviser in this country, can be consulted. In making this Square I personally will wish that anybody who comes there will have seen the struggle for Nigerian Independence. Even though it is true that we have not got our Independence by bloodshed, it is true that we have struggled for it.

I remember sometimes in 1949, Mr Speaker, Sir, before that time the country was not boasting of unity. There was something that



[Mr Abii]

happened in Enugu—that was the shooting of about 21 miners. Following that incident, Mr Speaker, everybody knew at once that both the Northerners and Southerners could come together. They came together in the Peace Committee and started from that time to clamour for the Independence of this country. It was after that time also that Dr Azikiwe (*Hear, hear*) of the N.C.N.C. formulated his idea of Nigerianisation and it has taken about ten years for this country to be Independent. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is true to say that this is 1959.

**Several hon. Members :** *Hear, Hear.*

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. I cannot hear.

**Mr Abii :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I still maintain that Dr Azikiwe was the man who started the talk of Nigerianisation.

**Mr O. C. Agwuna (Akwa) :** Point of Order, Sir. The exchange of words between hon. Onyia and Dr Mbadiwe is becoming so abusive that I cannot hear anything said by Mr Abii.

**Mr Speaker :** I have already intimated that.

**Mr Abii :** I still maintain that this honourable person of this country was responsible for awakening the people of this country towards their Independence. (*Hear, hear*). It is true also that his prophecy took ten years to come through—from 1949 to 1959—and the celebration in only a year after that. I think that in building this Independence Square certain things to show the history of our struggle should appear on the blocks of this building.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now refer to certain Heads of the Estimates and I want to take the Heads on Roads and Bridges. I think to start with it is necessary to thank the Minister of Works and Surveys. (*Hear, hear*). He has very ably carried out his work. He is very effective but, Mr Speaker, I must humbly say that this friend of mine has very carefully discriminated against certain places in this country. Other Members will point out certain roads he has neglected and certain bridges he has left undone. But let me refer to the particular one I have in mind. If you take up the Trunk A road from here to Ibadan.

**Several hon. Members :** From Camerouns to Enugu ; from Ibadan to the North.

**Mr Speaker :** May I mention that Mr Lakunle is persistently interrupting. Many Members do not realise that if they interrupt,

especially when they are so close to the microphone like that one, what comes through to the Official Reporters is a blur of sound. So let us have no more interruptions.

**Mr Abii :** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As I said this very able Minister has very carefully discriminated against many places and Owerri Division, Owerri Province of old. As an example, the road from here to Ibadan crossing the Western Region coming to Onitsha and passing through there, through Owerri to Aba and Port Harcourt. We pointed out from the beginning of this Parliament that there are many death trap bridges on this road and the Minister has very often promised to look into this matter. He promised that they must be done within the five years programme and Mr Speaker, Sir, we have a few months to the end of that period, although two years are being added to it. I think I must say that I was disappointed.

I remember last year when he was on tour of the East I sent telegrams to him at Port Harcourt asking him to take the road and see these death trap bridges. Sir, unfortunately that good friend of mine avoided going up to Owerri. I still feel he can do something now. He can include it in the present programme and see that the small bridges before Owerri township and after Owerri township and two others across the Imo River at Owerinta should be included in the present programme.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel also that the present Government's move to introduce interest free loans for Trunk Lines in the Posts and Telegraphs is a welcome proposition. I think that the interest free loans are going to make it possible for the rural areas to enjoy telephone services. Mr Speaker, I want to comment on that proposition. If the Federal Government means it to be a practical proposition it is necessary that Government considers the two points I want to raise. One, make the cost per line to be as low as possible. Work out the costs per line so that every District Council that may apply for extension of telephone services will know how much it will cost and then know what to pay. Two, the Federal Government has not been doing much for rural areas to show those places that the Federal Government is for them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that the Government will do very well to carry out these extensions on 50-50 basis. What I mean by that is if the



extension of telephone lines to a certain District Council will cost £50, the Federal Government should contribute £25. If this is done, Mr Speaker, the people of the rural areas will be very happy and you will see that this proposition of interest free loans will be a very welcome move.

Mr Speaker, I have another point to refer to and that is the Legislature. I wish to thank the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers for a little change which they have made. I must confess I am speaking from my own knowledge. I may be wrong but I still believe that I am right. I feel that a section of the staff of this House and of any Parliament for that matter, Mr Speaker, is not purely civil service. In that regard, Mr Speaker, I am referring to the salaries paid to the Executive Officers of this House. There is a little change of course, bringing the Clerk of the House to roughly £2,400, but the point I want to make is not that £2,400 is not a good sum of money but I am feeling that a precedent has not been created. Is the Clerk of the House less in status than the Permanent Secretary?

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Mr Abii :** Is the Clerk of the House going to another place to get his scale of salary raised? I am of the opinion that every civil servant fears the Legislature. The criticism is so near that the lungs of the man will feel it whenever the Parliament is criticising his work. But here are the workers who stand it everyday. They get the heat of Parliament. In my opinion such officers like the Clerk of the House, and the Assistants should now go a bit higher. Let the Clerk of the House take the status of the Permanent Secretary.

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. One must beware of going too much into detail on the Second Reading. It must be broad outlines of the financial state of Nigeria and financial progress; there is, of course, a Head for details, but we must confine ourselves at this stage to outline and not too much on detail.

**Mr Abii :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. I feel with your advice I had better stop so far and carry on again when we come to the Committee stage.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki** (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation

Bill. Mr Speaker, Sir, first and foremost the coming into existence of the Central Bank of Nigeria is a high achievement of the first order (*Hear, hear*). Sir, it is a truly National Bank, so whatever our National Government did not do, this they have done, and our able Leader who is firm and who believes in real action and not foolish useless talking, is of the candid opinion that in the last resort action counts and not words.

Mr Speaker, in introducing his speech the hon. Minister of Finance called the new shilling coin handsome. It can be anything but certainly not handsome. It is misleading; it resembles the 3d piece in use; one can easily give one in place of the other. One has to read the faces of the two pieces to know what they say. It is not everybody in the rural areas, at least, who can read. That is natural; we do not mind, we are a new country coming up to nationhood. We know it is lacking in the necessary amount of silver in it. We understand, but either the threepences should be withdrawn or the colour of the new shilling piece be different. Otherwise at night I can give one shilling piece in place of the threepence.

Mr Speaker, I notice with gratitude money is being sought to maintain radio diffusion services. I welcome it. Any money spent on the improvement of radio services or on maintaining them is money well spent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the token gesture of £160 for the upkeep of horses in the Bamenda police force. £160! Are they going to keep chickens? Certainly not horses. When I first saw the gesture I thought the time has come for the Federal Government to start having policemen on horseback patrolling the cities as one sees in other parts of the world. I see that there is provision for four horses to be kept in Bamenda patrolling the streets. I wonder how £40 can keep a horse in Bamenda. This is meagre.

Mr Speaker, in seconding the reading of this Bill the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industries made an omission and I hope it was not deliberate because he owes the nation an announcement, or an explanation at least, this side of the House, about what is the situation, what are the prices of cotton and groundnut. We are interested. We have a lot to do with cotton and groundnut prices.



**An hon. Member :** What about palm oil ?

**M. Bello Dandago :** Essentially groundnuts. Some of the prices are already stabilised and some higher, but what about groundnuts—it is falling down and down for ever. That is why we are not happy on this side. Groundnut and cotton prices : we want to hear what is the position. Is it likely that the prices of these essential commodities to the North will fall down again or is the situation brighter ? If the position is not satisfactory I can recommend, and I am serious about it, that somebody from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries should take up his portmanteau, go to Europe and contract real business, and at once.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in speaking in support of this Appropriation Bill. Before I go into the main subject of this debate I wish, with the permission of the Speaker, to make one correction. I have been on various occasions described as a U.N.I.P.-Action Grouper, at times U.N.I.P. I would like it to be made known now and for all time that I am an A.G. Member for Uyo.

On this Supplementary Appropriation Bill I will limit my remarks to the additional provision sought for Abak telephone service. I hereby praise the Government for the efforts they made to place the finance of this country on a sound basis. But, Sir, I venture to say that a surplus of just under £ $\frac{1}{2}$  million is by no means very encouraging for a big nation like Nigeria. We know that half of our revenue comes from Customs and Excise duties, and the recently appointed Board of Customs and Excise is doing excellently well, thus justifying the confidence we have in it. I notice also in the speech of the Minister of Finance that the Port of Koko was opened last June. We know the importance of this and I wonder why it has not been thought necessary to open the ports of Opobo and Abak to serve a similar purpose. We are anxiously looking forward to the day when the Federal Government will open up these two Ports in order that evacuation of produce from the other side may be facilitated.

About the Shell-BP Petroleum Company of Nigeria Ltd., it is very gratifying to know that the oil prospects are becoming brighter and brighter every day. Also the kind gesture of

the Company in volunteering to pay royalties as from 1st June at higher rates than those prescribed previously is to be commended ; but, Sir, I maintain that it is now time for this Government to step in to see that adequate compensation is paid to farmers and landowners whose crops and lands are being destroyed in the search for oil and exploration. I am saying this with particular reference to what is happening in my constituency. In Uyo crops are destroyed and only meagre sums of money are thrown to a few landowners. I am very much in favour of oil exploration because it will be a tremendous benefit to this nation as a whole, but the Company must not take advantage of the ignorance and backwardness of the people directly concerned.

The Minister of Finance's speech a few days ago stated that a comprehensive review of the road programme has recently been carried out by the Ministry of Works and Surveys. He went on to say that the results of this review are now under Head 602. The reference is to Highways and Bridges. It is all very well to undertake surveys and reviews and all what not, but unfortunately, Sir, the Federal Government, or the Federal Public Works for that matter, has forgotten one important aspect of our road system. This is, Sir, that so long as the Federal Public Works continue to retain the Regional Public Works as their agents for maintaining Federal highways and bridges, so long will these bridges and highways remain in a deplorable condition. I am saying this because of what is happening to our roads in the Eastern Region.

In the East I know that the Federal Public Works gives out money for the maintenance of these roads, but I am sorry to say that this money has been frittered away in the course of cutting down trees with the result that most of our roads have been washed away. The Trunk Road leading from Uyo to Waniba has been completely washed out. Yet the Federal Public Works continues to sit tight. These roads have been washed off even though money has been voted. I am wondering why the Federal Public Works did not undertake to retain its own staff. Until this is corrected our roads will continue to remain in a very sad condition indeed.

I will now go to the scholarship awards by the Federal Government. I see in the Supplementary Estimates a certain amount has been



put down for scholarships. Now, Sir, it is very disturbing after reading in the pages of the 'Daily Times' and also in the *Gazette* the list of scholarship awards, it is very disturbing to find that the awards do not reflect the Federal nature of the country. The North was very much neglected. It is argued that not many suitable candidates come from the North but I would like to say this, most of the first-class students getting First-Class Honours from the University come from the North. I am saying this without any passion. I am speaking from experience and I am speaking what I know. In giving scholarships I maintain that the overall interest of the country should be taken into consideration.

Also the people of the C.O.R. were very much neglected. Our students in Britain, in Nigeria, in Ghana and in Sierra Leone are looking forward to the Federal Government for financial assistance. I would like to be corrected by the hon. Minister of Education if it is not true that there is an element of discrimination in the award of scholarships to students studying overseas, and I am suggesting that in future some members of the Federal Scholarships Board should be sent to take part in the screening of applications overseas and also in the interviewing of candidates.

I have noticed also a certain provision sought for increased costs and other things at the University. I think it will help if a little is said about what is obtaining at the College. If the Government does not think properly we might find that our cherished institution of higher learning will begin to go the way of the university of Timbuctoo. We have heard that most of the expatriate Lecturers are leaving one by one and it is extremely difficult to recruit staff overseas, the reason being that salary revision has taken place in most British universities and also in Ghana, in the West Indies, with the result that it is impossible to attract academic staff to our university. Unless something is done quickly I am afraid the situation might get beyond control.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a lot I would like to say but in view of the fact that we are only one and a half days in this Second Reading I would like to give a chance to other Members and I will then say more in the Committee stage.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I whole heartedly support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to express my deep appreciation for the success of the Minister of Finance. He has played a great part in elevating the fiscal policy of the Government. We found it in a worse position and he has improved on it a great deal. He has travelled to the European countries and to America, and he has seen tremendous achievements from all circles, and it is the general talk of the people in the Provinces that Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh is an able Minister of Finance (*Hear, hear*). His achievements have proved that the choice of the Prime Minister of him was a very wise one and his meritorious achievements have coincided with his massive bulk. I can only hope that he will return to this House to continue his great work (*Hear, hear*). While I say this, I have to make my comments on the previous achievements, particularly with regard to finance.

It is gratifying to note the success which has attended the launching of internal loans in the country. Nigeria has a great advantage in that her people are gifted with the spirit of self help. This has not been greatly exploited by several Governments except in the Eastern Region. Much of the development in the East is initiated by the spirit of self help. The people of that Region build their hospitals, maternities, health centres and the rest of them on a fifty-fifty basis with the Government, with the result that the Government has been enabled to proceed to spread amenities to every nook and corner. Now I would say that the raising of internal loans has given a hint that much capital can be raised from within the country, particularly when the amount being raised is not such as to warrant going all the way to America or the United Kingdom. And I hope that this policy will be continued perhaps with a greater measure of success. This is only a start.

Now, connected with the internal loans is the question of external loans. I am grateful and the nation is also grateful to the United Kingdom Government for the loan of £15 million, and I have to say that Nigeria has always been grateful to her friends and will continue so to be to the United States Government and to the United Kingdom Government for



[MR MBAKOGU]  
any financial assistance that has been given or will yet be given to her. I would say that much of the continued happy association between this country and other parts of the world, particularly the United Kingdom and the United States, will depend to a great extent on the amount of economic relationship that is happily built up now before we get on the road to independence.

Now I feel that it is useless having political association without economic association because, I believe that political association without economic association cannot stick. So it is to the great advantage of the Western democracies, America particularly and the United Kingdom, to have to associate economically with Nigeria, because Nigeria is destined to play a great part in international politics. Nigeria is the biggest country in the African continent and it will play a great part in world affairs. It will lure other nations of Africa to her side and that will be taken into consideration in scheming international relations, and also in times of strategy Nigeria has a great part to play. Therefore no financial help given to Nigeria by the United Kingdom Government or the United States Government will be too big. It is an investment for peace.

I now come to the subject of industrialisation which the Minister expressed. We have industries, of course, but we want more and more industries. We require cottage industries of which there are a few but not enough at present. We require textile industries because we have abundant raw materials particularly cotton from Northern Nigeria. We need steel industries, we have the raw materials like iron, lime and so on. We need diversification of industries. We cannot keep to one industry. We need to check competition in small industries like Coca-cola, Krola, Fanta, all of them nearly the same thing. I do not see the difference between them.

**An hon. Member :** What of Tango ?

**Mr Mbakogu :** Yes, I forgot Tango. I feel there should be a check on these foreign firms who continue to exploit one or the other adding nothing practically to the ones in existence. So I feel that there should be diversification of industries of this kind, and I should say, that they should leave these small industries to Nigerians and continue with gigantic industries that warrant gigantic capital.

Again, Sir, I should congratulate the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and the rest of the Council of Ministers for the successful establishment of the Central Bank of Nigeria with the new currency issued as has been done. But I will say, like the hon. Bello Dandago, that the shilling coin is bad enough, and should be changed. The structure of the shilling coin is bad it is so shameful to say that when first I saw it I gave it to somebody, and when he was giving me change I told him I had not given him enough because it was three pence, but he told me that it was one shilling. Then I took it and looked at it again and saw behind the marked difference, that of the palm tree behind the shilling inscribed there. Illiterate people will not go all the way to examine that detail so I feel it is necessary to have it changed.

Again I should also ask the Government to establish a sound economic planning committee. Three years ago I moved a Motion in this House about the Ministry of Economic Planning to co-ordinate economic planning of all kinds. Well it was not accepted by this Government in spite of the lucid way in which I brought it forward. But I am happy to say that the Western Government immediately adopted that proposal and established a Ministry for Economic planning and that has been working well. I do not say that the Federal Government is planless. There is nothing to suggest that, but I believe that the Ministry for Economic planning is a very very important thing to co-ordinate economic activities of all kinds, particularly at this initial stage of economic development. We seem to try to reach our fingers to all corners and in such a case the fingers should be well guided by experts. So I feel that with the establishment of the Central Bank there should be an industrial planning committee that will draw experts' advice from the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank to plan for the whole country's economic activities so that there will not be competition from among the Regions and so that industrial establishments would be looked upon from one angle important to the nation—based on the need of the nation.

Also I should say that we seem to be forgetting the commercial sector of economic activity. Now, trade is dying and traders are sinking. I do not know the experience of other traders in other parts of the country,



but at Onitsha things are very very bad. Most traders have left and joined casual road labour. Most of them sweep the Onitsha market because of bad business. Well it is true I have seen the paper this morning, the report of the committee set up by this Government to find out ways and means of helping traders and business men generally, but I feel that the Government should read the report objectively and see to it that some thing concrete is done to help African traders. Traders suffer much nowadays, they suffer from lack of capital, they suffer competition from expatriate firms, and they suffer because even in retail trade they have competition from expatriate combines who want to under-sell them in order to drive them away, so that prosperity might return to them even though this is done in a very crochetty way.

Just yesterday, I was told that the Minister of Commerce and Industry said that combines would be imperative. That is true, but I do not know how to make the formation of combines imperative. If the Minister can force them to do that, that will be very welcome. It is very important because at present our people seem to be interested in individual concerns, one-man business, so that if there is any way the Government will force them to form combines that will be very welcome and will materially assist in rehabilitating traders throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, we are expected to deal generally with the fiscal policy and economic policy of the Government, leaving the details untill we come to the appropriate Heads during the committee stage. With this view in mind, Sir, I wish to proceed with my observations. This Supplementary Appropriation Budget, is opportune, opportune because it not only gives the House another opportunity of giving the Government yet another sum of money needed for various development projects but also makes it possible for us to look back and recollect the achievements of the past and look forward and make necessary preparations for the future, the unknown future into which we justifiably look with confidence because of the very good

start that we have made. It affords Members the opportunity of bidding their colleagues goodluck in the coming elections and of saying good bye to those who go away never to come back to the House again (*Hear, hear*). Mr Speaker, Sir, whatever reasons for their not coming back will be, it is our hope that they will continue to serve the interests of their fellow countrymen as they have done in the past. Together, we have built this nation into what it is to-day, together we should continue to see it grow from strength to strength.

Sir, in about fourteen months from to-day Nigeria will emerge as an independent sovereign state and will take its proper place in the comity of nations. By size and population, Nigeria, being the largest single all-African country in the world, must have a prominent part to play in the emancipation of our sister countries in Africa and in the promotion of peace, mutual understanding, help and co-operation among the nations of the world. This task is not by any means small, and by no means should we underestimate our responsibilities. We must not underestimate our importance. Besides, Mr Speaker, the tide is now turning and the world I hope will very soon turn to Africa, and to Nigeria for that matter, for an answer to the problems now confronting it. We must therefore pray, Sir, that we may be given the strength, the courage, and the ability to shoulder this our new responsibility.

But, Sir, it is not enough to pray verbally, we must be determined to work hard in order to justify the acceptance of our prayers by God. God helps those who help themselves. Let us therefore take a looking glass and see our faces, see how beautiful or ugly they are ; see how and where we can make up to make them look more beautiful, if they are already beautiful. First we must realise that Nigeria can only make her influence felt, her dignity and prestige held high, her important position recognised, and her contribution appreciated, only if her nation is built upon sound, proper, social and economic basis. Socially we need to continue to respect our culture, our great traditions and our customs. We must treasure them and preserve them, for by such preservation shall we preserve the dignity of the nation, and failure to do so will not only ruin our dignity but also our



[M. MAITAMA SULE]  
culture upon which our economy now depends? If the majority of the people are to benefit by our efforts, we must begin to explore the possibility of improving our method of farming and we must make a bold and progressive move to this effect.

Similarly, Mr Speaker, self-government would mean very little to Nigeria if the Government does not make the effort to quicken the pace of Nigerianisation on the lines suggested by the Parliamentary Committee on Nigerianisation on which I have the privilege and the honour of serving. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker, I have nothing against our expatriate civil servants who have all these years worked as hard as they can and who have nursed our civil service during this period of infancy. Indeed we owe them undying gratitude. But it is only natural that we should seek nationals of this country to advise their brother nationals in the Cabinet, for he who wears the shoe knows where it pinches.

I do not wish to go into details for fear of forecasting. But this much I will say, that whatever the Government views may be on the Report on Nigerianisation, we in this honourable Legislature do not and will not support any increase in the salary of anybody in the senior civil service which we understand is now being contemplated by the Government. Already, Sir, more than 50 per cent of the expatriate pensionable officers in the service have put down their names on List "B" and have drawn advances against their lump sum compensation. It will be too much to give an increase to these people who have already emptied the pockets of our Government. I ask, where is that spirit of adventure, that humanitarian spirit that used to exist in them? Where is that desire to work without necessarily for fabulous salaries but for humanity? Is it now lacking? I think it is still there. Let them make use of it.

Sir, while speaking of our civil service I would like to say that effort should, and in fact must, be made to create a good atmosphere in the service so that the service can be manned by contented servants. While I appreciate that administrative posts have been raised higher and higher, we would like to see similar concessions given to the professional and technical officers who are equally as important and whose services are, and will

continue to be, needed in building a better Nigeria. Anything short of this, Mr Speaker, will result in getting very few people coming forward to take up such most important posts that affect the economy of the country.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to our Government, particularly to the Prime Minister, that respected man of international repute whose reputation has earned for Nigeria the goodwill and respect and the confidence that it now enjoys abroad. (*Hear, hear.*) May he live long and may he come back to this honourable Legislature to lead the Government of the new nation. (*Applause.*)

Mr Speaker, to the Minister of Finance, I would pray that he may live to surmount all snags and obstacles put in his way, to come back and continue to be the housekeeper to the joy of the nation. (*Loud applause.*)

To the Minister of Communications (*Several hon. Members : No, no !*)

**Mr Speaker :** The time for debate this morning is two and half hours in all. Speeches should be short and interruptions should be non-existent.

**M. Maitama Sule :** To the Minister of Communications and Aviation whose intelligence is widely acknowledged, I am hoping that he too may be with us either in the Cabinet or in his usual place.

And last and by no means the least is our Mr Speaker, for whom I will not say anything but will end by saying, may God reward him for the services that he has rendered to Nigeria, and to humanity; may he and his family continue to live in everlasting joy and felicity, and may he occupy a place worthy of him in the next world. (*Loud applause.*)

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu) :** Mr Speaker, this will be the last Appropriation Bill which this August House is called upon to debate. Before we join in that ancient but familiar tune handed down from generation to generation—"Lord let Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen the salvation which Thou hast brought for all men", I wholeheartedly support this Bill, not so much for its significant reminder of all that has transpired nearly five years ago, but because it is a necessary instrument to crown all that was planned, channelled and publicised these many years.



In the past five years this House has authorised the expenditure of more than £200 million to the services of the Federation, and the sum of £1,174,750 which we are now asked to authorise for further expenditure in the services of the Federation represents an infinitesimal figure compared with what we have approved in the past. Yes, without this additional sum of money, the efforts of the past would have been defeated.

Mr Speaker, as we close this most eventful chapter in our national economy we must look back with great gratitude to God for sparing our lives to train this nation to one symphony in the midst of discordant notes. In all these economic and political advances, the United Kingdom has emerged the hero for the opportunity which has been given to this country to administer its affairs. The opportunity has been wisely utilised. New discoveries have been ample. The Prime Minister, the genius in combination, often used discordant notes to produce symphony. The Minister of Finance with his sound common sense holds his own in a complicated field of finance with eloquent credit. (*Applause.*)

Also Akintolaism (*Several hon. Members : No, no, no !*) humour with biting sting has also featured in our economic debates. Mr Speaker, the smooth and soft voices of our Special Members, like hon. Daldry, hon. Howard, the ringing and melodious voice of Solaru, the argumentative insistence of Jaja Wachuku, and the competence in the game of Aja Nwachuku. All these may not be directly related to an Appropriation debate, but these are the features which have lightened our burden in debates of financial matters.

Mr Speaker, the Central Bank of Nigeria, with its advent of new currency, is the crowning feature in our economic growth. I am happy to recall that from the Floor of this House in 1952 it was my good fortune to move a Motion that the Government should organise and establish a Central Bank. It was ably supported by His Highness the Alake of Abeokuta, accepted by the Minister then : in the ministerial set-up at that time were men like Nwapa, Bode Thomas, Ribadu, the present Prime Minister, Eni Njoku and Arikpo.

It was my happy fortune to be in the Government when this was fashioned and to remain here when it was brought to fruition. At that

time the present Minister of Finance was somewhere in the Western Region not knowing that it would fall to his lot to open one of the biggest adventures in financial history that this country has undertaken. Mr Speaker, Sir, it presents a great step forward because any political independence without economic stability is a hopeless adventure in the field of human relations.

Mr Speaker Sir, talking of the Central Bank, I want to associate this with foreign investment. This country must make it clear to the foreign investors that there will be no strings attached, no hinderance or impediments put in their way, when it becomes necessary for them to exploit some of the profits which they make in this country. After all, the business field is no charitable institution, it is not sentimental, it is a hard calculated profit-making scheme ; and for a person to come and invest his hard cash in this country, he must make sure beyond doubt that he is getting something for it and that no hinderance will be put in his way. The Government has taken every step to give this assurance but we cannot be complacent ; we must repeat it as often as possible.

One feature in the Finance Minister's speech is the slogan of the provision of one hundred and seventy thousand pounds or more which has been made for the African Staff Housing Scheme. This is a very welcome feature. In the past people have criticised ministerial quarters. I am not in agreement with such criticism. I have said before, time and time again, that people who serve the state must be housed in proper quarters. It is also a gilt-edged security ; but the Ministers themselves must think of the people that make it possible for them to exist and to continue in office. By making provision for the workers outfit and by the provision of one hundred and seventy thousand pounds for the African Staff Housing Scheme, the Ministers have demonstrated beyond doubt that they stand to live and also for others to live (*Applause.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, now to the question of dieselisation by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria and the Nigerian Railway Corporation. At times, Mr Speaker, I must admit I run behind time. What people will catch in a few minutes takes me many days to catch up. I was behind time. I was against dieselisation or electrification for the fear of what may happen to



[DR MBADIWE]  
present time of our development it is important to put them on a sound footing. To-day you find them so scattered here and there that they are not pulling their weight. The possibility is not there and we must produce what will become a free and independent trade union.

**Mr Deputy Speaker :** I think I should remind the hon. Member that he has only four minutes to go.

**Several hon. Members :** That is even too long.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I would like a scheme for the ex-servicemen to participate in the independence celebrations as a reminder of their competition in the past.

It is also necessary for the Minister of Education to make a statement in this House on why two students studying in East Germany had their passports impounded. Why put the mistake on their head and leave them starving in the cold somewhere in London ?

**An hon. Member :** Give us their names.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Dr Ohiaeri a medical student and Lawrence Opara studying Agriculture somewhere in East Germany.

Then the Minister of Commerce and Industry. The publication of the report of the Advisory Committee on Aids to African Businessmen shows the democratic method of the Minister. We will like you to bring the report before the close of this House so that we can approve the implementation of whatever proposal is necessary before the next Government. Do it in this Government. It is to your credit. Do not leave it to the future Government which we do not know what form it will be.

**An hon. Member :** Because you will not be here.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am finalising my statement on the Nigerianisation of the Police Force. And this cannot be over emphasised. In saying so I have nothing against the European serving officers. I think they have every sense of responsibility. In thinking of national security we cannot but think of who will eventually help our Police Force ; the officers grade and so on. We must push them along because the responsibility will ultimately fall on their shoulders. We must begin now to give them protection and I am

happy that some of our men with law degrees, with honours degrees in various fields are now entering the Police Force, but they are being tucked away in the Inspectorate Grade. They should be trained well and when they make the grade let them be given their due and rightful place.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity which you have given me in this Budget Address and I will only say that the review of the past gives great confidence for the future. The friendly atmosphere, despite political ideology and idiosyncrasy, has been most cordial. Excepting our differences which are merely political but these are insignificant when equated in the wider ocean of human brotherhood which has guided this House. Who could not have loved to see and be associated with a House so wonderfully constructed. I can say that God has helped in the choice of the men who have been called here together to make an eventful history, a record which I will always continue to be proud of.

Thank you.

**Mr U. O. Ndem (Calabar) :** Mr Deputy Speaker, in supporting this Supplementary Appropriation Bill I feel I should not be left alone in congratulating the Minister of Finance for this Supplementary Budget. There is one thing which has stood very clearly in the speech of the Minister and that is that the Minister has been very busy during the past few months trotting the globe asking for loans and trying to attract money into this country. I think the Minister is emboldened in his quest for financial help from abroad by the fact that this country is credit-worthy. I congratulate him also because he happens to be a very lucky Minister who has accumulated a series of historic landmarks during his term of office. He is a Minister who is responsible for bringing the Central Bank of Nigeria into being. He has become the first African Finance Minister of the Federation. He is the Minister responsible for bringing into being the new currency for this country and I consider all these things as important landmarks in the career of our present Finance Minister. He is also the first Finance Minister of the realm who buys influence and by throwing his weight around, has been able to deprive 2,000 workers of their rights.

**Several hon. Members :** Where !



**Mr Ndem :** And I think Mr Deputy Speaker, that Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh (the Finance Minister) has a name in history, not only as the first African Minister of Finance but because he is also one whom the workers of this country will continue to condemn.

I speak also about the loans which he has been able to attract to this country and I will pass on to the question of industries which he has not actually mentioned in his speech but I feel that we have been attracting money from foreign investors but we have not even established something in this country that can produce money locally. All what we have done so far is to borrow from abroad but we have not actually established a means of producing money from within. When we think of the Nkalagu cement industry we have to feel very proud that this country has something which produces money in this country. But then we have to have something more than the cement industry at Nkalagu. There are small industries like the matches production industry which can be established in this country. If the Government cannot take that up by itself, I think the Government can encourage other industrialists locally by inviting missions from countries that produce things like matches and then getting into terms with local manufacturers so that we can produce things like matches in this country and that will bring additional revenue to us.

We have things like ordinary lead pencils and we have the wood and raw materials with which we can produce them locally. We can establish such industries not only because they will give us the pride of being able to produce our own but they will also help to cut down the growing unemployment which will soon face this country and I think, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the Finance Minister should take very seriously the advice given by hon. Mbakogu about the establishment of a sort of co-ordinating machinery for the industries of this country.

*Sir Frederic Metcalfe in the Chair.*

**Mr Ndem :** It is very necessary because at the present moment we have not got something to co-ordinate the activities of industries which we are having in this country. Our industrial activities go unknown and but for the "Made in Nigeria" Exhibition of last year many people in this country would not have known some

of the things which are being produced locally. I think if the advice of the hon. Member is taken seriously and we have a co-ordinating Minister for economic affairs it will give us an opportunity of knowing where we over-produce and where we under-produce and these things will help to put us on a sound economic basis.

I will also draw attention to the very commendable project which the Finance Minister has established; that is the Central Bank of Nigeria. The building is very imposing and the site is also imposing and I hope that the financial transactions there also will be very very impressive. But there is one thing which I want to point out about the notes which have been produced by the Central Bank. We have the pound notes, the colour is well known but there is a very little difference between the pound note and the five shillings note in colour.

The difference in size is quite all right. The 5s note is smaller but quite apart from that the colour is almost identical. (*Several hon. Members : No, no!*) I have heard it mentioned to me that many people who are unscrupulous have taken this money, five shillings, to the rural areas and they have shown it to the people as pound notes and they have had change given to them when they only submitted five shillings for a pound.

I am very serious about this because many of my friends who are now talking about no difference being there come from the rural areas where ignorance abounds and where most of these things we are talking about are going to affect them. I think the difference in colour should be very very conspicuous; say like the colour yellow or some other colour and it will not be mixed up.

Another thing to which I would like to refer is Highways and Bridges. It is pointed out that there is going to be a major project of bridging the Niger. I am very happy about that, especially when the Minister of Finance mentioned in his speech that work on that will start before the end of this year. I am very happy, Mr Speaker, that this bridge is going to bring untold benefits to the people of this country. This Government will be remembered by that bridge, not only because it has initiated it, but because it has listened to the clamour from all over the country that the bridge across the Niger was absolutely necessary.



[MR ENEH]

Well, Sir, in conclusion I would like to refer specifically to the £15 million which the United Kingdom Government has given us and to say and place on record the indebtedness of this Federation to the United Kingdom Government. We all realise, that the United Kingdom Government itself is hard put to it finding money for its own services and in spite of that the Government has not only guaranteed our £10 million pounds for the construction of our Railway but has also given us another £15 million and is prepared also to help and guarantee our other loans for which the Federal Minister of Finance will be visiting Western Countries that are friendly with the United Kingdom Government and Nigeria. We shall be failing in our duty if we fail to express our sincere thanks to the taxpayers of Britain for that generous gesture.

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

**M. Abdulkadiri Koguna Wakilin Riyogi** (East Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and in doing so I would like here to congratulate the Government of the Federation because through their efforts many things have been done in this country. For instance, the introduction of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the new currency, and also the Building of the National Hall. Sir, the currency of the Central Bank and the coins are unanimously welcome by the people of the Federation the size is good and the colour is good. Some people have criticised them. It is just human nature. He who cannot do something will always criticise what others have done. That is the thing.

A lot of criticisms from all sides of the House have been made of the Minister of Works. He has accepted these criticisms but there are many things for which we should congratulate the Minister of Works. Even in Lagos here you will see the construction of the Central Bank which is one of the best buildings in Lagos, the Prime Minister's Office, the construction of the National Hall, which is now in progress, and other works of which the people are aware, also the construction of the Lugard Avenue flats. For these reasons the Federal Minister of Works and his colleagues are welcome. Another good thing, is the completion of the Kubani Bridge in Zaria and the completion of the

Turumawa Bridge on the Kano-Zaria road. At least those people who are coming from the Northern Region should see the great development of the trunk A road leading from Lagos to the Northern Region. Sir, there are only two points of which I would like to remind the Federal Minister of Works, the tarring of the road from Danbata to Baura near the French territory border, that has long been forgotten, and the straightening of some dangerous corners on the Kano-Eastern Trunk A 1 road which I mentioned here at the last Budget Meeting at mile 12 from Kano to mile 37 and mile 41, where lots of lives were lost very often. I would like the Federal Minister of Works to do something about this.

The next thing, Sir, is about the Minister of Commerce and Industries. We hope that the Minister of Finance who recently returned from a world tour will make proper arrangements with foreign countries so that they will buy our raw materials at very good prices. It has been said by M. Bello Dandago in this House that the price of groundnuts, Sir, in the Northern Region and also the price of cotton and hides and skins are very very low. I would be very pleased if the Minister of Commerce and Industry would see that the price of groundnuts are increased by at least 50 per cent ; so also the price of cotton and hides and skins.

Now, talking about Industries we know that the Minister of Commerce and Industry is doing very well, because industries are rapidly increasing in the country. For instance, Sir, the Nigerian oil mill in Kano. There are thousands of labourers working there and I wish the Minister of Commerce and Industry will try to increase what they are doing there because they are given a certain tonnage of groundnuts that they can crush every year. Well I hope the Minister will increase this tonnage because the more they crush groundnuts the more people are employed there. Another thing is that groundnuts come in from French Niger. Let them be given permission to get these groundnuts from there if possible.

Now on the Ministry of Labour, we have to congratulate the Minister of Labour and Welfare for touring the Northern Region just a month ago, because that is what we like to see, Ministers doing.

On the Ministry of Communications and Aviation, there has been many criticisms of that Ministry in this House, but now it is getting



better. The construction of the new Headquarters of the Posts and Telegraphs in Kano is being completed.

The next thing is I have to express my personal thanks to the Prime Minister, Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for keeping this country in peace in such a tough and difficult time, when some rogues and crooks are going about causing troubles here and there. They are fighting for the elections, they cannot get it. Sir, the people of the North have no confidence in them at all (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to join others in congratulating the Minister of Finance for his clear and lucid statement on this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Much praise and encomiums have been showered on the Prime Minister and the other Members of the Council of Ministers and on Members of this House for the work which they have been able to do so far. But I would make a practical suggestion to commemorate what this House has been able to do during these five years, and that is that a brochure of pictures of Members of this House should be got up and kept as a permanent memento in the Library of this House (*Applause*). That will be something we can see in the future. (*An hon. Member : You are not coming back.*) As to my coming back to the House, you wait until December and see the results.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance in his budget speech mentioned the reimbursement of the contingencies fund. It appears that the contingencies fund has been used in an unsatisfactory way. It appears that things that should have been brought forward during the budget session were kept over until such a time that the Budget was over and some of these things were put in as money coming under contingencies fund. So far as I have seen from the expenditure, we have the Madagascar Relief Fund and the Beazley collection which were paid for. These are the only two things which should have come under this contingencies fund. The Personal Emoluments for the Public Works should have come up during the actual budget and it should have been scrutinized by this House at the right time. The same thing applies to the amount spent on vehicles for the Police. I hope that in

future the Minister of Finance will see that the money is properly utilized and not for such things as should have come up during the Budget Session. I do not know whether there is any provision to surcharge the Minister of Finance when he mis-uses the money of the Government in this way !

Mr Speaker, Sir, under Highways and Bridges, I notice that on this question of Ijebu-Ode-Benin road it appears that the work is now stationary. This Road was expected to have been opened about two years ago. The work has still not been completed and it is at a stand still. It is necessary, Mr Speaker, that a Commission of Enquiry should be instituted on this work to find out what is really wrong. We should remember that the economic growth of this country depends on proper roads and other means of communications. There is no Railway line between the East and the West. They depend on this road and this would have been a very short road, reducing the distance between Lagos and Benin by over a 100 miles, and yet the work on this road has been at a stand still for the last two years. So I feel, Mr Speaker, the Government should institute a commission of enquiry to find out what is wrong with this road.

The Minister of Finance has been very optimistic about the surplus balance for next year. I share his optimism, but he should have to do something more to get more revenue. I will remind him about the conditions of the frontiers of this country. Every day we are losing thousands of pounds because of smuggling. There is no sufficient care being taken about the frontiers of this country, and I hope that he will do something about it.

Now he has not told us something about the danger of the European Common Market. We know that the weather this year is quite good for agricultural products and there is going to be a good harvest of cocoa, but the disposal of these agricultural products will have to go to the European countries because we do not consume them here. The European Common Market is something that will militate against the price that will be paid for these agricultural products. I would like to know what the Minister of Finance has been doing about it ; what negotiation has he entered into with these European countries so that our agricultural products may fetch good prices in the world market.



[MR AJASIN]

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the Niger Bridge it is a good proposal that this bridge will be completed in four years. But we have not been told how long it will take to pay back the money and also what sort of people will take over the contract. We should be able to keep some of the money that will be paid to the contractors. Perhaps they are the contractors who would be in partnership with some of our people in this country and they should be contractors that will engage and train our people in these technical skills. So I feel that in awarding these contracts it should be made a condition that the contractors should engage our people and be able to train them in the skill of constructing that kind of bridge.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I find that under the Military vote, there is a provision for Cadet Corps to be increased. Now, the Prime Minister in his speech sometime ago in this House promised to give us a report on the Cadet Corps which has been started in some of the Government schools in this country. I think it is time now that we should give that report during this meeting of the House. I am also suggesting, Mr Speaker, that the establishment of a Cadet Corps should not be restricted only to Government colleges. It should be established in the voluntary agency secondary schools as well. (*Hear, hear*). The question of getting instructors should not present any difficulties. The Government can make provision for instructors who will go round perhaps during the holidays, and arrangements could be made with the University College so that during the holidays there will be vacation courses where these teachers from the secondary schools will attend and get instruction for the training of boys in this Cadet Corps.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of industrialisation of this country has been raised over and over again. The loans for industrialising this country have been found from abroad and the people getting these loans appear to be people who are in the urban areas and big towns of this country. Now people in the rural areas would like to borrow money and to invest this money in some industry as well. They have difficulties in collaterals or securities that will be acceptable to the Board. I would say that the Minister should consider that cocoa, rubber, palm oil, or groundnut plantations should be accepted as securities or collaterals rather than

buildings, because in many places in the provinces we do not have people with buildings made of concrete which can be accepted by the Board. I would say that this alternative should be considered by the Board.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like to take more of the time of the House, but I hope that the few observations that I have made on the budget will be noted by the Minister of Finance and that he will give a satisfactory reply to them when the time comes.

**M. Saidi Zongo** (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, Sir, I would seize the opportunity of congratulating the Government for the steps they have taken to train Nigerian police officers specially in criminal law to be able to act efficiently as Crown Prosecutors. In view of the acute shortage of Crown Counsel in the country, Mr Speaker, many cases are being lost by the Crown. Often you see that in the inefficient way in which the police officers responsible handle the prosecution.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Transport very seriously to this very important matter. I was told, Mr Speaker, that passenger fares have been reduced in the Western Region. If this is correct, Mr Speaker, why not do so throughout the Federation? Sir, passengers from the Northern or Eastern Regions travel first by Western trains bound for the Northern boundary where the reduced rates apply; then there is a limited passenger train. Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that what the railways have done in the face of competition in one Region against others is to improve our services in other Regions at the disadvantage and boycott of the competing Region. But what is happening now is concession to one Region at the expense of others who have high regard and use of the railway.

Sir, I would like the Minister of Transport to do something now, now, to improve the railway services in the other Regions and not the Western Region alone where there is not a great need of railway services, and ask the Railway Corporation to reduce the fares equally throughout the Federation.



House of Representatives Debates

1629

[Adjournment]

8 AUGUST 1959

[Adjournment]

1630

Finally, Sir, I would like the Minister of Transport to do something towards promotion in the Nigerian Railway Corporation to enable the staff to benefit from the scholarship scheme of the Railway Administration. I hope the Minister has taken to heart all the points I have made.

In concluding, Sir, the people of my constituency asked me to convey their gratitude to our able Minister of Works and Surveys for the completion of the bridge over Kubande River, and ask the Minister that the tarring of that part of the bridge should be started.

With these few remarks I beg to support the Bill.

*And it being 11.45 a.m. the Debate stood adjourned.*

*Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.*

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—The Minister of Commerce and Industry.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to twelve o'clock.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Monday, 10th August, 1959

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. Papers. The following paper which has been distributed to hon. Members is deemed to have been laid upon the Table :

Promotion of the Tourist Industry in Nigeria, Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1959.

REPORT FROM BUSINESS  
COMMITTEE

**Mr Speaker :** I have to inform the House that a Report as to the allocation of time to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure has been received from the Business Committee and will be considered under the relevant item of to-day's Order Paper. It has been printed and circulated to hon. Members.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
PRISONS

Control of Ibadan Prisons

**O.168. Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what steps are being taken by the Federal Government to take over the control of the Ibadan Prisons from the Ibadan District Council.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Internal Affairs :** I regret that until funds become available for rebuilding the existing Prison either on the same or another site, the Federal Government will be unable to take over the Ibadan Prison from the Ibadan District Council. The capital cost is estimated at £118,200 with a current expenditure of £36,000 a year.

Nigerian Superscale Officers in  
Department

**O.169. Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will state how many Nigerians hold superscale posts in the Prisons Department, and if he will indicate their postings.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Internal Affairs :** Two Nigerians

hold superscale posts in the Prisons Department. One is performing the duties of Assistant Director, Western Region and the other is acting as Assistant Director, Eastern Region.

COMMERCE

Setting up of Leather Centre

**\*O.200 Alhaji Abubakar Garba, Madakin Bauchi** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether, in view of the substantial waste resulting from the unprogressive methods of processing leather being adopted by indigenous farmers in Nigeria, Government will consider setting up a model training-cum-production leather centre in the Federation so as to provide all-Nigeria training facilities in hide processing and leather utilization.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** I am very much aware of the need to improve the tanning of hides and skins in Nigeria and to introduce better methods of processing Nigerian leather. The Federal Government has already made application to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to assign a specialist to co-operate with the Federal Institute of Industrial Research in investigating the problem and the application will be discussed in detail with a farm products processing specialist from F.A.O. who will be visiting Nigeria later this year.

Meanwhile we have sought the advice of the Tropical Products Institute, the Principal of the National Leather-Sellers College, the Principal of the Cordwainers Technical College and the Secretary to the National Association of Leather Goods and Saddlery Manufacturers in the United Kingdom. As a result of these discussions, proposals have been put forward very much on the lines which the hon. Member has suggested, but it would be premature to implement them before the tanning of hides and skins has been improved. This latter aspect of the problem is also currently being studied by the Northern Region Government who have appointed a Hides and Skins Improvement Officer to their Veterinary Department.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS  
COMMITTEE

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (M. Shehu Shagari) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House doth



agree with the Business Committee in their Report.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved*, that this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

*Ordered.*

(i) That 2 days shall be allotted for the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill ;

(ii) That 3 days shall be allotted for the Committee of Supply ;

(iii) That the days allotted for the Committee of Supply shall be subdivided among the Heads of the Estimates as shown below ;

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

Day	Head must be completed
End of 1st day	.. 21-38
End of 2nd day	.. 39-61 and Third Reading of the Bill
End of 3rd day	.. Heads 601, 602, 603, 604, 605.

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

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

*Supplementary Appropriation (1959-60) Bill (2nd Allotted Day) : Adjourned Debate on Question (6th August) : That the Bill be now read a Second Time.*

*Question again proposed.*

**Mr E. O. Akwivu** (Orlu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, as the last meeting of this House gradually comes to a conclusion, I am quite sure Members will look back to all that has happened during the life of this House with a great feeling of achievement, and I feel, Sir, that we the Members of this House must feel rather fortunate in taking part in the deliberations of this House at this very crucial time in the history of this country. If one might look back, Sir, it is

now a matter of history what happened at the beginning of the life of this House. When election results caused surprises in certain quarters, the possibility of forming a stable government was rather one of speculation. But thanks to the good sense of the leaders of this country, we did succeed in having this House started with an able and stable government. (*Hear, hear.*) Also, Sir, we count it as an achievement of this House and a credit to the unity and sense of purpose of this House that with one voice we succeeded in demanding and achieving the creation of the post of Federal Prime Minister and the Government of all parties which we got thereafter. . . . .

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. I am so sorry to-day is the last day for the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. This is not the time, nor the occasion, to review the achievements of this Parliament. There will be another opportunity. The argument is confined to-day to the financial and economic state of Nigeria and the Government's financial policy. The hon. Member's remarks, I know, have a bearing on it, but we must confine ourselves in short speeches to those words laid down in the Standing Orders.

**Mr Akwivu** : Mr Speaker, Sir, in talking on the economic state of Nigeria I would say, Sir, that through the good sense of the Federal Government we have achieved certain economic measures and a certain economic state of which this country will be proud, and which no doubt, if projected into the future, will certainly shape this country into a happier and more successful one.

We have witnessed for the first time that the E.C.N. has made a profit and is now making a contribution worthwhile to the status, size and magnitude of the economy of this country. As has already been said more than once on the Floor of this House, they have progressed towards more economic operations. Oil is displacing coal, and I must say, Sir, that in seeking for more economic operations, they are doing what they are expected to do.

But I will also join in saying, as has already been said here, that the implication now staring us in the face is a very ugly picture, and that is the displacement of those members of our community who have been deprived of their employment in coal mining. I think, Sir, that



[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]  
between the Government of the Federation, its research institutions and the E.C.N., something should really be done in finding other uses for coal that will bring relief to those people and their distressed families.

Also, Sir, we have the Nigerian Ports Authority. The achievement of this Authority is also before us. Its Nigerianisation policy is an encouraging one, and the wharf extension going on at Port Harcourt, is an asset to this country for which the whole nation should be very proud. And I think that it will reflect very creditably on the commerce and industry of this country before long. Also the wharf is handling far more tonnage than it has ever been called upon to handle in its history, and is running very closely behind Lagos. I think the decision to have the wharf extension is a very wise one and it will really go to solve some of the difficulties that the businessmen of this country face. Already we know that the commercial community at Port Harcourt and in the Eastern Region as a whole are passing through very difficult times because of lack of facilities at the harbour and because of lack of storage accommodation, and very exorbitant rates are being charged for clearing goods from the wharf. There is a lot of difficulty in working on public holidays and on Sundays—a thing that is not done in the Port Harcourt wharf—and I feel, Sir, that the communities at Port Harcourt and the Eastern Region as a whole are very grateful to the Government for this development.

Sir, we also have our institutions of higher learning. We are grateful and we hope that they have come to stay in this country. But there is one thing, and already it is very apparent, that the Ibadan University alone will not solve the needs of this country in higher learning. We need more and better facilities. Already the output of students ready for higher learning is far in excess of what Ibadan University can cope with. We also have the technical institutes distributed one in each of the three Regions of the country. It is important, Sir, that these institutions should be put to better use. In some cases, the use at the moment is not very easily appreciated by members of the public, excepting by experts who have looked into the inner secrets of their workings. We do not want to be saddled with the problems which other countries like India suffered from,

and that is producing purely academic intellectuals, and paying very little attention to the needs of this country for highly qualified technicians, scientists and people of other specialised fields of learning. I think, Sir, that in the meantime it will pay this country a great deal to encourage these fields of learning with a view to remedying what is becoming more and more critical, that is the supply of qualified technicians and people of scientific learning. And so, Sir, it is my humble suggestion that, if need be, the schools of technology in the Regions should be able to educate their students up to their first degree standards. If they can do that, Sir, they will be going a very long way to meeting the needs of the country.

We have before us, Sir, recently circulated, the *Report of the Committee on Aids to African Businessmen*. The Report is evidence of industry. Members of the Committee should be congratulated on what they have been able to do in the time at their disposal.

One might say, Sir, that the language of the report itself is not only evidence of learning but also evidence of hours-well-spent. It would be very highly appreciated if the Government of the Federation within the short time at its disposal between now and the dissolution of the House should think very seriously on how to implement the suggestions.

As is very well evidenced from the report the small businessmen of this country are really undergoing untold hardships and limitations and the sooner something is done to help them the better. I might say that in formulating policies the various Chambers of Commerce in the country and the views of indigenous businessmen should be taken into consideration.

There is another fact : some leading members of this country fail to appreciate some of the consequences of our constitutional position, and I think it might help the situation if a lot more is done for the education of such people. Since the regionalisation of the Marketing Boards, it should become clear that the question of prices of primary products are essentially determined partly by demand from the outside world and also partly by the policy of the various Marketing Boards, and I must say, Sir, in this case that the Marketing Boards have tried as much as possible to prevent prices from falling. I think it is an obvious fact that primary producers are getting for their produce to-day



(MR AKWIWU)

more than they are getting from the outside world. (*An hon. Member : Not in all cases.*) At least, Sir, in the case of palm produce. I think it is sheer wickedness for anyone to lay the fault on any particular Government. I say that in this particular respect it is sheer wickedness to blame the Eastern Region for the price of palm produce. I do not think there is any private individual in this country who says he can determine the price, the price is solely determined partly from the outside world and partly from the policy of the Board which tries to prevent the prices from falling too low.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must congratulate the Minister of Finance on his far-sighted policy and his realistic appreciation of the limitations of this country in capital resources. I think, Sir, that every one in this country would like to congratulate him on how far he has tried to bring foreign resources to our aid and we do hope that in the future he will do his best to make things much easier and much brighter. I am quite sure that if there is anything that could help in cementing the tie between this country and the Commonwealth countries it is the sort of assistance which he has successfully solicited from the commonwealth countries.

Finally, Sir, this country is one that is destined to play a very important role in the economy, trade, industry and politics of Africa, the Commonwealth and the world and I think our Government in maintaining a steady and balanced policy has really done a work for which it should be congratulated. It is our earnest prayer that we must not—either this Government or the one that might succeed it—rush into the present scramble for African leadership without knowing exactly where we stand. Sir, while we are labouring very hard and very seriously for the development of the economy of this country, we do so conscious of the fact that we are destined to be the leading nation in this continent and elsewhere. I think it will be folly if, while we are rushing to have economic development, we commit ourselves to some other form of subjection after we shall have gained our independence from our present form of rule. It is our sincere prayer that the life of Members now present may be spared to see the better future for which we are all working.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr L. C. Daldry** (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one significant fact about this Appropriation Bill. The additional expenditure is not expected to be met by additional revenue for 1959-60. Now we have grown accustomed on the presentation of the Supplementary Appropriation Bills to hearing at the same time of expected increases in revenue, but although the Minister has been able to report an increase of £900,000 in the surplus for 1958-59, the revenue estimate for 1959/60, he says still stands. In February, he confidently expected to be able to apply for capital purposes the whole of the £3,160,000 which he expected to raise from the new taxes announced at that time, but he now says that he will only be able to transfer two million pounds from that source. Except, therefore, for the windfall of £900,000 for 1958-59, he would not be able to provide the £3,000,000 which is now required on capital account.

One of the characteristics of the Minister is his unquenchable optimism—a quality for which I think Nigeria should be grateful. (*Hear, hear*). But if from such an optimist, one hears that the revenue estimate still stands, one cannot help wondering whether perhaps it is only just standing; perhaps wobbling a little, perhaps even liable to fall. (*Hon. Members : No, no*). Now, it is in fact more than likely that Nigeria's long period of buoyant revenue is slowing down, and if so, it will all the more be reason for being grateful for the relatively small amount in this bill, and it will also lend emphasis to the importance of economy in public spending.

In February, the Minister specifically promised to cut out waste and extravagance in the public service. That is all very well but the public service, to which we owe a great deal, is very often, and sometimes unfairly, made the whipping boy of public opinion and I think it is not only to the public service that we in this country must now look for the cutting out of waste and extravagance. I feel there is to-day a general need in the private sector of the community for some attention to be paid to this matter. There is no doubt that over the past two years most workers' standards of living have increased and what were luxuries a few years ago are now necessities. To a large extent this is a good thing



[MR DALDY]

and it is right and proper that living standards should go up. There is plenty of room for those standards to go up still further but only at a pace which the country can afford.

Many businesses, both large and small, Nigerian and Expatriate, are carrying wages bills to-day just as heavy as the businesses can possibly support, and it seems to me that the time has come when wage demands must be matched and more than matched by increases in production and in business efficiency (*Hear, hear*). The urge for more and more money is natural enough but there is beginning in this country to be a tendency not to cut the pattern of personal expenditure according to the cloth and this if not checked will do a good deal of harm.

It is quite clear from the Minister's speech that the greatest problem in the financial sphere which faces the Government of this country or any future Government, is to find the money to finance the economic programme up to March 1962. The Minister said that this programme is extending the financial capacity of the Federation to the utmost. Since the House last met the Government has done great work towards closing the gap in money between resources and planned expenditure. They have found not less than £15 million by way of loan from Britain. But to revert to this vital matter of the economic programme and the gap between resources and planned expenditure, it seems to me, Sir, essential that we should be quite clear in our minds regarding this gap.

The Minister said that the gap was £32 million to be financed externally. He has found £15 million and £15 million from £32 million leaves £17 million. This may seem a manageable figure but it is merely the gap to be financed externally and it is only one side of the picture. There is another gap to which the Minister has not specifically referred on this occasion and that is the gap which still has to be financed internally, from loans to be raised in Nigeria.

In his Budget Speech in February the Minister said that he anticipated the raising of internal loans including the introduction of a fiduciary element in the backing of the new currency to produce £19 million. Since then £2 million has been found by the first Federal Loan leaving £17 million still to be

found internally. Later in that speech the Minister said that £10 million for the planning period will be raised by the additional taxes announced in February and that all the £10 million will be utilised to finance Capital Expenditure. Now already within 6 months he has had to revise his thoughts and as I have already said, only £2 million instead of over £3 million will be available from those sources, he told us, this year. With perhaps therefore a fall in revenue I doubt whether anything like the total of £10 million will be available for Capital Expenditure. I should not be surprised if a lot of that £10 million has to be used to finance Recurrent Expenditure. In any case it is clear that a large sum, probably running into two figures in millions, must be found from loans within Nigeria. The success of the first Federal Loan was encouraging but what a formidable task this Government and its successor may have in raising the further requirements by way of internal loans. I do not say this is impossible but I do feel, Sir, that the problem now calls for very special measures and this brings me to the main point of my speech.

In February the Minister said that he was actively considering whether the time might not be opportune to mount a saving drive on a national scale at the time of Independence. I am suggesting that he should not wait for next year but that he should set arrangements in train for a national savings drive without any further delay (*Hear, hear*). It will not be sufficient to rely on the flotation of further Federal Loans at intervals nor to hope that the big expatriate concerns, who have already invested vast sums in Nigeria, can continue to take up substantial blocks of Federal Loans as and when they are issued. It seems to me that the savings of the ordinary man must be utilised to the fullest extent and it is my suggestion that some form of Nigerian National Savings Certificate should be devised now. (*Hear, hear*).

The National Saving Certificate was, I remember, a feature in England at the time of the first World War, and many millions were raised thereby. It is a form of mobilising the savings of the small man. The British certificates cost only 15s each and I remember in my school days that even children could subscribe by buying stamps from the Post



Offices and sticking them on to a card and when they got 15s of stamps on the card they could exchange the card for a certificate and the certificate of course represented a loan to the Government.

One of the assets of this country from some angles is its huge population and I suggest that the Government turns its attention straight-away, and before the elections, to encouraging the people to reverse the present trend of not cutting the pattern of personal expenditure according to the cloth, and to start saving as a great National Movement, to assist the economic development plan on which the future prosperity of every man and woman in this country so much depends. Self help and self sufficiency should be the ultimate goal of this country. It is all very well for the Minister to say that he will be looking for loans among our friends in the West. I am sure he will find a response, but all these outside loans must one day be repaid and this is going to be a drain on this country for many many years to come. Nigeria has cause to be proud but surely Nigeria does not want to continue to keep sending its Minister of Finance, cap in hand, abroad for loans from the outside world for ever. I do not think it would be out of place to issue the Nigerian National Saving Certificate for as little as 10s. Much publicity and exhortation to the public should accompany the savings drive and certificates should be on sale in every post office in the land.

I realise the difficulty in taking small loans from the public in this way. There must be provision for the certificates to be encashed and therefore there is also the chance that the public will withdraw their loans. But I think this is a risk which we are entitled to take particularly if the holding of National Savings Certificates is put across to the public as a patriotic duty. The very fact that the certificate would be encashable might be an attraction, without leading to any great volume of cashing. As matters stand at present the absence of a ready market for the Federal stock must be deterring many would-be investors.

Turning now to the other gap of £17 million which must be raised externally; what are the prospects here? I feel that the

prospects depend very much upon the country taking the advice given by the Minister in his speech when he said that the aim should be to establish in this country the soundest possible democratic principles. This is the soundest basis on which Nigeria as an independent country can approach the outside world for financial assistance.

Since, Sir, I am unlikely ever to have the privilege again of speaking in this honourable House of Representatives in connection with a Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I should like to conclude by affirming once more my faith in the financial and economic future of this country. But I cannot say too strongly that my faith is conditional upon this Government and future Governments pursuing a policy of keeping wages and prices stable and not leaving the country to drift into an era in which there are rounds of wage increases, leading to rounds of price increases, leading again to rounds of wage increases and thus into that inflationary spiral which is such a danger in developing countries and concerning which I have warned the Government so many times in this House.

In supporting the Second Reading of this Bill I have nothing but the best possible wishes for Nigeria in its independence and I have not the slightest doubt that Nigeria will be in the forefront in the British Commonwealth of Nations. (*Prolonged applause*).

**Mr H. O. Abaagu** (Kwande): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make one or two points in connection with the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In the first place I want to say a word of thanks to the Minister of Finance for the able way he has presented this Bill. From the speech of many Members in this House from all sides of this House, including even the Action Group, I can say that the Minister is a fit and proper person to man that office. It will be wrong for the Action Group to put up a candidate against him in the forthcoming general elections. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, I want to say something about the revenue of this country. The revenue of this country is not very encouraging and I think it is due to certain people evading tax. A great number of people do not want to pay tax and I think if Nigeria wants to be independent and to have economic stability, we should not evade tax. In this regard, I am suggesting



[MR ABAAGU]

that the Minister of Finance should do all he can to see that every taxable adult in this country is assessed and contributes his or her quota to the economic development of this country. I am also suggesting that all women, I am not mentioning married women, I am mentioning all working girls; all working girls and unmarried girls should be made to pay tax. (Several hon. Members : No !)

**Mr Abaagu :** I have my reasons, Mr Speaker. There is no difference in scales of salaries between our male adults who work in the offices and our female adults. They receive equal salaries and I see no reason why these people should not be made to pay tax. Turning to married women they bluntly refuse to go to the kitchen and therefore they take up the field duty of invading all the pubs in the country and they make a lot of money. I am not speaking out of experience any way ! So to reduce the number of prostitution in this country I think it will only be proper to assess these chaps.

I come to the matter of contracts. I want to say something about the construction of roads and the building of certain institutions. I see that certain projects have not yet been carried out because we have not got people to work on these projects. For instance, there is a post office which was proposed to be built in a certain part of this country which has not yet been built because there is no contractor. I want to tell the Minister of Communications and Aviation that there is a proper man; there is a good contractor in that part of the country who, if given the contract, is going to satisfy the Minister and that is the firm of Messrs Ferrarri.

**Mr Speaker :** You must not discuss details to-day. We are limited by the Standing Orders to financial policy.

**Mr Abaagu :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want also to say something about the construction of roads which contributes to the economy of the country. If we do not have roads we do not have commerce. I want to say that if the Federal Government have no people to work on the roads I suggest it will be good to give the work of the construction of roads to certain contractors. I have seen a contracting firm of Messrs Grizi. These chaps are very good, and one can see the very good job they

have done at Ninth mile Corner Road to the North. If these firms are given the contract they will contribute to the economic growth of this country.

**An hon. Member :** Are you a contractor ?

**Mr Abaagu :** I am not a contractor myself. In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I do not want to bother this House because already the Speaker has warned that we should confine ourselves to short speeches because this is the last day for the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. What I want to do now is to remind Members of this House that this is the last meeting of the present House and to ask them to praise the work of the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. If a party like the Action Group comes into power—and I do not agree if Nigeria is to have her independence—the country will be ruined. A party that will go somewhere to borrow money, a party that goes to America to borrow money and use a substantial part of that money for unproductive purposes cannot govern this country. Mr Speaker, I had better stop since many Members would like to speak.

**Oba A. Aiyeola, Afolu II (Ijebu Remo) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, this is certainly the last speech which I am making in this House on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which was laid before the House by the hon. Minister of Finance (*Laughter*). I am certainly not the only Member in this position. In any case, Mr Speaker, I am giving place to a noble personality who for the past eight good years has wrought wonders in the Western Region and has succeeded in converting a once undeveloped vast area of land ruled by the white hierarchy into a Welfare State. (*Prolonged interruption*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order. There is such a volume of interruptions that I am missing most of the speech. The Official Reporters signal to me that they cannot hear it. We must listen to the Debate in silence and not waste time on interruptions.

**Oba Aiyeola :** It is therefore a great pleasure to me to have the fortune of giving way to Chief, the hon. Obafemi Awolowo. . . . .

**Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) :** Point of order. The hon. Oba is being irrelevant; he is talking about personality not about the Supplementary Budget.



**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Member has had a very short chance so far and has been much interrupted. If we can hear what he wishes to say.

**Oba Aiyeola :** It is therefore a great pleasure to me to have the fortune of having to give way to Chief, the hon. Obafemi Awolowo in this House so that he may be able to occupy the most conspicuous position of Prime Minister and become the first citizen of an independent Nigeria.

**Hon. Members :** Shame, shame.

**Mr Speaker :** I hope the Oba will confine himself to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

**Oba Aiyeola :** Let me now, Sir, for a moment comment on one or two aspects of the financial policy of the Budget. It has been laid down that what is known as contractor finance arrangements will be followed in respect of improvements to Trunk Road A.1 and the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road. I think a full clarification of this procedure is necessary, but if it is a system whereby the contractors will be put on the job and be paid over a long period of years the charge will be top heavy since the contractors will have to pay on the money they are obliged to raise by way of loans from the banks. If Government has not sufficient money to finance its major projects the best thing is that it should find money so that it will be able to pay the contractors as and when they conclude their contracts.

It is a well known fact that Regional Governments, quite apart from other projects, have their own roads to look after. It is therefore most unreasonable for the Federal Government to have to employ them as their agents and saddle them with the repairs of Trunk A roads where even there is disparity in the pay of unskilled labour. Governments should accept full responsibility for all Trunk A roads and, if possible, take on more Trunk A roads from Regional Governments so that the Regional Governments can, in return, be in a better position to look after roads which have, hitherto, been the responsibility of the local authorities. Without good roads, the lives of people who use cars are not safe. The opening of the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin road is long over-

due and the advantages that will accrue to our brothers of the East need not be repeated here.

Mr Speaker, I have always spoken about bridge No. 62/3 on the Lagos-Ibadan road, and although the Minister has promised to see something done about it nothing so far has transpired. The railings on both sides are only made to be broken through by careless lorry-drivers. The bridge needs to be widened.

I now come to the subject of industrialisation. The sum of £200,000 made available by the United States and the United Kingdom Governments is, to say the least, quite inadequate, but there is hope that we shall have more if we make good use of what we have. There is no reason why the Minister of Finance should not look to businessmen of this country for more and more loans. But, Mr Speaker, in giving out loans undue hardship should not be placed in the way of those who come up for loans. They should be given all encouragement and help by the provision of technical experts. Is it not shameful, Mr Speaker, that we have not a single biscuit factory in this country, not to mention that of sugar, tea, chocolate and other confectionery articles, whereas the raw materials are being exported from this country and returned to us in the finished form. I hint that independence without a bold industrialisation policy is a sham.

It is pleasing to see the large number of scholarships which have been awarded this year. It is realised that a great many of our students are in the United Kingdom and also in the United States, who, for one reason or another, are not able to continue their studies. I am suggesting that instead of leaving the job of making scholarship awards to an official of the London Office a few members of the Federal Scholarships Board here should be given the facilities of going themselves to the United Kingdom and interviewing these students. (*Hear, hear*). There is discrimination in the award of scholarships.

The University College Ibadan and the Nigeria College of Technology are autonomous. They derive their autonomy by legislation made in this House, and it will not be amiss to say something about the management of these Institutions of higher learning in this country.



[ALHAJI GARBA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad that a small sum has been provided in the Supplementary Estimates for a new post required for the Commission of Post Secondary and Higher Education. There is also an additional provision for the emergency training scheme in science subjects. We must by now realise that national prosperity is primarily the function of education, especially technical education. Countries which are advanced in education are invariably prosperous while countries which are educationally backward are poor in spite of their immense potential natural resources. Mr Minister, we urgently and ardently need highly qualified scientists, technologists, technicians and craftsmen of different levels. We need also competent foremen, chargemen and supervisors in sufficient numbers if we are to compete with the highly developed industries of the Western countries. Unless we have them, and urgently too, our industries will ever remain less prospective and more expensive.

What is the way out Mr Minister? suggest that you put a target that so many thousand technicians will be trained every year here in Nigeria and overseas, and see that we reach that target. I repeat, Mr Speaker, Sir, that Nigeria can make rapid progress only if her people acquire technical knowledge and are capable of producing the machines the country requires. We cannot progress by merely hiring people to put up hired machines.

Mr Speaker, I hope the Minister of Finance is here. He has my showers of encomiums. He deserves all that has been said about him in the way of praise. If we are to move towards the best modern standards of living, education and health we need outside economic and financial aid for a good many years, for the key to national prosperity in the modern age lies in the effective combination of three factors mainly, capital, technology and raw materials, the last fortunately Nigeria has in abundance. So, Nigeria will do all it can to extend trade between this country and other countries such as the U.S.A. and European countries, but it must be made clear that Nigeria is not all out to plunge herself into debt which will eventually make her political independence meaningless. Nigeria is seeking to co-operate on equal footing with all friendly countries who are willing to invest their capital in our country with no strings attached. (*Hear, hear*).

Finally, Mr Speaker, I should like to pay a special tribute to his Excellency the Governor-General, Sir James Robertson, the Prime Minister of the Federation, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and his Cabinet whose valuable contributions made it possible that the new Nigeria which we have thought of and dreamt of is well within our grasp.

Mr Speaker, maybe it is an ambitious statement to make, but hon. Members will observe that it is only ambition and vigour that can make vigorous lives, vigorous deeds and vigorous achievements. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Federal Government has promised us a new bridge across the River Niger. This bridge can only be constructed with hard work and sacrifice. So I appeal to all political leaders in this new Nigeria to build a strong permanent bridge in the hearts of all Nigerians, spanning differences and narrow outlook and creating links of trust and co-operation and mutual understanding and confidence. (*Hear, hear*). Nigeria, Sir, is inhabited by diverse communities all of which represent the country as a whole and are an integral part of it. I think Nigeria is on the right path and with mutual understanding and co-operation, we will reach the goal and play our part equally well as any other member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Sir, I beg to support. (*Applause*).

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have expressed anxiety and shown keen interest about what Government is doing in respect of the report published recently about aids to African businessmen. Aid to African Businessmen is an essential part of the economic development of our community and, Sir, I propose to deal briefly with what is being done and what will be done in the future. However, some of the matters dealt with in the Report fall for the most part within the responsibilities of the Regional Governments, particularly those regarding taxation, dealings in land and development of secondary export crops. I have no doubt that many of the Committee's suggestions will be very helpful to the Regional Governments.

The Committee recommended that the staff of my Ministry should be increased. With the integration of my Ministry and the



Departments falling within my portfolio, I am glad to tell you that the position of staff shortages has greatly improved, and active steps are being taken to increase staff.

The Committee recommends that produce inspection shall not be limited to the Marketing Board's produce only. A separate Bill is being drafted to provide for standards of quality prescribed for such produce. Their enforcement is, of course, largely a matter for Regional Governments.

With regard to the provision of more warehouses for importers and exporters, the Ports Authority have planned to provide more storage accommodation for export cargo and, subject to funds being available, intends to increase warehousing accommodation by  $\frac{1}{4}$  million square feet at Apapa and by 68,000 square feet at Port Harcourt.

My hon. Colleague, the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, has informed me that he is putting measures in hand to speed up stamping and registration of documents, and action is at present being taken by his department concerned.

The Committee recommends that a Trade Association Ordinance should (be enacted to control Trade Associations. I am not convinced that this is desirable because trade, being an individualistic sort of affair, if put into a straight line, disciplined, so to speak, will not last. It is not like that. But I am constantly urging traders to combine so as to complete more effectively, but the initiative must first come from the businessmen themselves, and their friends and advisers. I take it that the hon. Members of this House are friends of our businessmen and that they will use their influence to urge our traders and to make them combine and form bigger companies.

In their recommendation No. 14, the Committee have emphasised that no industrial enterprise can be truly successful unless it has the necessary capital, technical skill and managerial experience. They point out that the best way to acquire managerial skill is to manage a business, no matter how small. I entirely agree with this.

They also advise that the recommendation of the Federal advisory Committee on technical education should be put into effect. I have been extremely pleased to note that the Ministry of Education has acted promptly on this

recommendation, last month the first course for trainees from industry in supervisory and managerial subjects was started at the Yaba Technical Institute. I am told that the response from industry, and particularly from Nigerian-owned industries, has been very encouraging and a large number of foremen and junior managers have been nominated to take the course. This is only a first step and much more remains to be done.

It is also gratifying to see the way in which statutory corporations and the large commercial firms are providing increasing opportunities for Nigerians to learn the art of management, and I was particularly interested to read of the establishment earlier this year of a special school for this purpose only, which has been established by a leading commercial house in this country. I am disappointed with the performance of large building firms in this matter. They make a lot of profit but they are not prepared to put in a little for the development of such schools in our own country. I hope they will listen to this and start doing something immediately. (*Applause.*) I trust they will do more to train Nigerians as foremen and inspectors of works. We will leave it at that and see the result. I am urging them to do the right thing for my country. (*Hear, hear.*)

The staff of the Industries Division of my Ministry is available at all times to give assistance to Nigerian industrialists who have any managerial or technical problems. In the past some industrialists have ignored advice which has been given to them, and they have lost money. I urge Nigerian industrialists to bring us their problems—we will not fail them, I hope.

The Committee recommend that Government should keep a vigilant eye on the management personnel of business enterprises and should encourage such enterprises to use Nigerians wherever possible. To this end all applications for appointment of expatriates in commerce and industry are referred to my Ministry by the Prime Minister's Office. They are examined with great care to ensure that suitable Nigerian personnel are employed instead of expatriates wherever possible, but I am mindful of our overall policy to encourage by all possible means the further development of commerce and industry of all kinds in this



[MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY]  
country, and it would not be right to prevent specialist expatriates working here if there are no fully qualified Nigerians immediately available. For this reason great emphasis is laid on the training schemes which industrial enterprises propose to establish for Nigerian managers, and Government is prepared to grant assistance of all kinds more readily to those firms which provide training than to those which do not.

Now, as regards the entry of new immigrant firms into road transport, the immigration policy of the Federal Government which has been carried out in full consultation with the Regional Governments, has in fact resolved this expanding industry for Nigerians only.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): With Syrian buses running in the North !

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** : Whatever we do, I do not want us to do anything in a vindictive sort of way because it is the surest way of driving away foreign capital. Nigerians, we have been told, and we agree, are tolerant people, and we cannot allow our tolerance to deprive us of our own legal rights.

Arrangements have been made to provide for full consultation with Regional Governments in all matters affecting immigration in their respective Regions. On the broader aspect of trade between Nigeria and Fernando Po, the main problem has been to eliminate smuggling. My colleague, the Minister of Finance, visited Fernando Po recently and had a discussion with a view to finding a solution to this difficult problem.

Finally, let me deal with proposals for providing credit facilities. I hope we shall not show to the outside world that Nigerians are only too anxious to borrow but not too willing to work. I do hope to have a White Paper ready on the valuable suggestions made by the Committee for the provision of credit guarantees on long-term loans. Preparation of a scheme has reached an advanced stage but there are many practical problems which will need to be tackled before an organisation on the lines proposed could function effectively.

In this speech, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have not been able to deal exhaustively with the many useful recommendations made, but I wish to assure the House that they are receiving careful

attention. I wish to express the thanks of the Federal Government to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their most valuable contribution towards solving difficult problems. If any hon. Members have further suggestions to make arising from their study of the Report, I shall be very happy to receive them and give them full consideration. I would add that Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations throughout the Federation have all been asked for their views on this Report and their comments will also be given full consideration when received.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.  
(*Applause*).

*Sitting suspended : 11.41 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 12.05 p.m.*

**Mr J. L. Nsima** (Eket) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill I would like to refer hon. Members to the points made in the speech of hon. Mr Daldry about wages competition within the Federation. I am convinced wages competition within the Federation is according to the political structure of the Federation ; where one party is in power in one Region and the same party is the opposition in another Region and those political parties are vying for membership and control of Legislatures by winning elections. Therefore they use these increases in wages to catch votes.

It can be remembered that at one time in this very Legislature a Motion for a minimum wage award of five shillings was brought up by a political party for the sake of winning election. Sir, it devolves on this Government if it wants to stop the rise in wages to remind the political party that was responsible for initiating the Motion in this House for rise in wages to stop doing so as a means of campaigning.

The other point is, we have been told by the Minister of Finance that new projects have been included in the Supplementary Estimates, and in the case of Highways and Bridges they have come as a result of a comprehensive review of the road programme. On turning to



*House of Representatives Debates*

1657 [Supplementary Appropriation 10 AUGUST 1959

Bill : Second Reading]

1658

the memorandum to the estimate dealing with this Head one would have expected to see included a real survey of our road system to obviate numerous bends and obstructions. These bends and obstructions run for miles and miles along our roads. It must be borne in mind that our present Federal roads came out of a desire not to build first-class roads but to provide a means of reaching the hinterland, and of tapping the resources of the hinterland. But we now need national highways, the type of national highways that will befit an independent Nigeria. I have to thank the Minister of Works for being very industrious; but there is a point which has deprived him of the full praise that I wanted to give him. That is that the Federal Trunk Road should reach divisional headquarters like Eket. In conversation with the Minister of Works he assured me that the East Regional Government intends that trunk roads in the Region should be taken over by the Federal Government. I am strongly reminding the Minister of Works that when the arrangements are completed the road from Uyo to Eket should be on the priority list.

**An hon Member :** That is self-government. This House will soon end.

**Mr Nsima :** I know this House will soon end but I am making this statement to guide those who will come back.

I know that the people of this country will be happy to hear the news that a bridge will soon be constructed across the River Niger. This is a welcome news. This Government will ever be remembered in this country as the most progressive government of the Federation. (*Hear, hear*). Because we are doing great things. . . .

**An hon. Member :** Great things indeed !

**Mr Nsima :** We have succeeded, as hon. T. T. Solaru knows, in obtaining £15 million loan from Great Britain. No Action Group Minister so far has been able to go out and bring in money like this. When they bring their own money they bring it for some awful reasons; for reasons best known to them. Praise goes to the Minister of Finance for his ability to go out and succeed in signing agreement and bringing plenty of money back to us. (*Hear, hear*). I was going to add one more feather to the Minister of Finance's cap but I

am afraid that he has far too many feathers now. This Federation will have to look for appropriate honours for the Minister of Finance.

The establishment of the Central Bank is also very welcome news, another achievement of this Federal Government, and I hope that this Central Bank will control the currency of this country. I am also happy that the currency of our Federation has assumed international value.

I want to say something about our coal miners. From what we know it is getting more difficult day after day to have our coal marketed outside this country. It appears that sooner or later all such avenues of marketing our coal will end and we will have to resort to local consumption, and that of course, means that we have to establish such industries that will utilise coal. At the moment we have so dieselised that our industries are run with the use of electric power or diesel oil. I am now suggesting that a move be made in the direction of establishing such industries as will utilise coal in order that our mining industry may continue its growth. New coal fields are being established and will continue to expand but it will be a sorry affair if we do not have the way of marketing this coal. Now the miners who have been retrenched should not have been retrenched had we found reasonable means of selling our coal.

We all are aware that our Education in this country has been lop-sided; lop-sided in that we have been trained purely to read and write. There is no real industrial training, no real scientific training. We have not at the moment produced men capable of going into the laboratory to do research.

Another point to consider is that of the savings certificate that was touched by Mr Daldry. I think a savings certificate is an essential means of a Government borrowing funds for the future. It happened, as Mr Daldry said, in England during the war and it happened, of course, in the United States during the war—I was there—as means for raising money for the Governments to continue the war. This is, indeed, a time of emergency just as it was in the war-time for Nigeria, for we need money to carry our projects through. So I think the suggestion is a good one and this Government would do well to introduce it.



Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**M. Hassan Rafin Dadi** (Katsina, South East): Mr Speaker, Sir, before making any comments and observations I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers in congratulating the Minister of Finance for what is undoubtedly one of the best speeches during the lifetime of the present House. It is comprehensive and delivered with such technique and humour that the audience has been kept interested and responsive. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Budget speech is truly an expert job and this job has been particularly well done. The Minister, Sir, has proved himself able to the task as a worthy custodian of the public funds (*Hear, hear*). His loyalty and devotion to the people of this country is unsurpassed and unchallenged. He is a first-rate ambassador to the cause of his country's fight for freedom and self-determination.

Mr Speaker, Sir, turning to the National Government, this is also to be congratulated for a most successful tenure of office. They have steered the great ship of State into the harbour and are only waiting to be piloted into the dock under the distinguished and able leadership of our greatly respected Prime Minister. (*Hear, hear*.) The services that this National Government renders to the cause of Nigerian independence is such that any Government in any part of the world has every right to be proud. Political destiny is in sight and only waiting for the signal hour, our road to economic emancipation has been set. In trying to achieve these two cardinal objectives the voice of Nigeria has been heard in every corner of the globe.

Mr Speaker, Sir, turning to the financial and economic policy of the Government, the amount of appropriation required to supplement the services of the Federal Government up to the end of the current financial year seems to be well scrutinised and very essential. Two problems, however, still remain outstanding. The first is the increasing trend of recurrent expenditure for which no foreseeable solution is yet in sight. The second is the financial aid that still remains to complete the development programme. Connected with this problem is yet another of equal and grievous nature, and that is that the world fluctuation in the prices of our primary commodities is still a very serious threat to the economy of this country, which economy, of course, depends on

the export of these primary commodities.

Referring to the Minister's speech last February, he made a somewhat personal remark as to what he described as short-term fluctuations without focusing the attention of the House on the seriousness of the matter in his usual manner of presentation. He has however, agreed that there still remain many problems for all of us to solve. He went on to show that we in Nigeria had been very fortunate in the fact that the effect of these fluctuations had been put off by the reserves of our Marketing Boards without which, according to the Minister, our economy would have been thrown into chaos. Mr Speaker, Sir, Nigeria is not only interested in stabilising these commodity prices from our reserves built up by the Marketing Boards. The most important point is that if some means could be found to get some sort of long-term agreement whereby our farmers get fair prices, these Marketing Board reserves could be used to bridge the finance gap in our economic programme. The most serious situation you encounter comes when these reserves are gone and the country is faced with a rising trend of recurrent expenditure. It is necessary to avoid this calamity. It is here, Mr Speaker, Sir, that I want to focus the attention of the Government who should not adopt a complacent attitude towards it. It is serious, indeed very serious, and must be faced objectively.

The second problem which I would like to comment on is the financial aid which remains and which must be obtained if we are to bring our economic programme to a successful conclusion. We are very grateful for the loan of £15m granted by the British Government and more so for realising her moral obligations to us. We are also lucky to have at this opportune moment the Earl of Perth, a reputed friend of Nigeria. He will be an eye-witness to the commendable efforts put up by the Government of this country in economic planning in order to raise the standard of living of all the people and so will be able to plead our cause better, thus making it easier for the Minister of Finance to secure further loans whenever he goes back there.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to point out that the only answer seems to be the industrialisation of this country to diversify our economy and avoid dependence on primary production. In this connection, Sir, the



decision of the Government to harness the waters of the Rivers Niger and Kaduna for the production of power is very commendable. It is a project which will bring immense benefits to this country and one that is full of potentialities both industrially and agriculturally. It will be likened to a similar project in the United States of America, the famous Tennessee authority which has transformed the lives of millions of people of that country and added greatly to the economic potentiality of that country.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I must thank the hon. Members of this House for not going into the details of that speech and into the details of the financial policy of the Government both now and in the future. But I believe there are certain aspects, broader aspects of policy, that it is incumbent on Members of this House to look into now more than ever because this may be the last opportunity for this House as it is constituted to look into this matter.

✓ To-day, Nigeria has reached another stage, another horizon, in an attempt to climb to a place of honour and glory among other nations of the world. The Nigeria of the past dies giving birth to the Nigeria of the future. The economic policy of Nigeria can be and must be guided by the political conditions in Nigeria, in Africa, and in the world. Let us at this solemn hour of our history take stock, let us count our gains and check our losses, let us know how we stand so that when we face the future we can do so fairly and truly without fear, and yet without false hopes. The resources of this country must be channelled into one avenue and one avenue only, and that is to create a Welfare State in Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

Nigeria of the past was a slave State, she worked for the master State, but was fed and clothed by that master State. The Nigeria of the future shall be free, but Nigeria then must feed herself, clothe herself and protect herself. Hereafter Nigeria must stand alone, on her own strength and not on anyone else's expense. Although we may remain in the Commonwealth we shall either succeed or fail on our own strength, and that strength alone. For Nigeria

the past was not free, but under British rule the people of Nigeria were freer as individuals as never before. For whereas the life, limb and property of the individual and common man had been at the mercy of the old ruling cast everywhere, this rule of law to a large extent has removed the effect of the old ruling cast. We in the Nigeria of the future must make sure and guard jealously this freedom of the individual which has to-day become our heritage. In short, on the eve of independence, our duty as Members of this House here means we must be determined in the future to muster all our strength, all our energy and all our resources to enhance the material and spiritual progress of our country and safeguard the individual liberty of our people and the national sovereignty of our States. This House of Representatives, the supreme Legislature of the land, of which we all are now Members, is the assembly of all the peoples of the land by their chosen representatives. So long as Members truly represent the people and not any privileged class or ruling class, I have no fear that our duty to the States and our people shall be honourably discharged.

At the same time, our people must be prepared by us for self-sacrifice for the future and the future must demand not only savings but possibly the destruction of all luxuries because for the future we need every penny that can be afforded to be saved in Nigeria, not only to enhance the position of her people but also to survive in the position that Nigeria must find herself in the international world.

I have no fear for Nigerian unity. In this House many people pray for it. I do not think that prayers forms the answer to Nigerian unity. We have to feed Nigeria and clothe Nigeria and protect Nigeria: we must be united. Any other thing is suicide and I am sure nobody wants suicide. I am sure all the financial resources of this country shall be brought together in order to achieve a common end. The free world is not a bed of wool. Africa is the seat of future balance of power between the Western Powers and the Eastern Bloc. At one and the same time the enemies of the African within Africa itself are gathering their strength in their follies to resist the struggle of the black man for supremacy in Africa. These forces of evil surround us on all sides.



**[Mr Fani-Kayode]**

France, the Archangel of the Devil himself surrounds herself with satellite states of the French Community. These states are as free under France as France herself was free under Nazi rule, including the members of the European Common Market. I think the hon. Minister of Finance was good enough to give us a warning in February as to the possibilities of this European Common Market in which you have France, Belgium, Holland, tiny Luxembourg and all these states who still hope to prolong their colonialism in Africa. This is an attempt, as I said before, to strangle us by 1973 by seeing that we have no markets in Europe for our raw materials. That is another challenge which must bring unity. I am certain that I do not want to starve, Mallam Bello Dandago does not want to starve and the same applies to Jaja Wachuku. If the fear of starvation is not enough to make us unite, I am sure that nothing else will make us unite.

I honestly want Members of this House to accept this speech as directed not only to one party but to all parties of the House. It holds for the North, it holds for the East and it holds for the West. Moreso, in view of certain Bills that come before this House soon. I feel that merit and merit alone should be the standard by which any person in this country is judged, and not party or class.

I must say that we must not forget our enemies in South Africa, in Rhodesia and Kenya. We must have in mind that we have a situation that can arise which brought the Devlin Report to light and the resultant effects of that Devlin Report also touch us. We must realise that the time may come when Nigeria may have to stand alone; if Britain can reject the Devlin Report, Britain can reject anything that might come for the good of this country. We must not be fooled by getting self-Government without tears. Self-Government without tears is good enough, but that is not all. At this time of our history we have to rely on ourselves and our brothers across the border because we are in the same plight here.

We must not be fooled at getting self-government without tears. Self-Government without tears is good enough but it has made women of us. At this time of our history we have to rely on ourselves and our brothers across the border. They are our friends because we are in the same plight with them.

We are in the same plight with Ghana; we are in the same plight with all other oppressed countries in Africa; we are in the same plight with Egypt, with Libya, with the Sudan, and I think, Sir, that these dangers will form the cement that will unit Nigeria suddenly for the future because we shall realise that we cannot afford at this stage of our history to do what is called forming the fool.

I must say, Mr Speaker, that the Western world to-day and the Western powers are rather pessimistic or unhappy about the Pan African movement to-day. Observations of the British and American political writers prove that they would not like to believe and would like us to believe that the heterogeneous mixture of African states cannot form an African economic and political block. These people would want us to rely in future on them alone for strength and thereby become future satellites. But they forget that our common sufferings racially are common dangers, and common determination for the combined strength that is necessary for our survival are forces which must weld us together into a solid African block that will redeem all African races and be a safeguard to preserve the balance of power between the West and the East. We in Nigeria shall form the spear-head of this movement. Our place is at the front of this movement and nowhere else.

Well, I am certain that we have the men in this House and in the House to come, men who can form that spear-head and put Nigeria in a status that she deserves in the history of nations. Whether we like it or not, solely by her own efforts Nigeria is destined to play a leading role in this struggle for creation of a New Africa. It is a glorious destiny. Mr Speaker, Sir, that destiny is in our hands; we must not fail. Let us create within Nigeria a welfare state where justice, merit and freedom prevail. Let us nationalise the machineries of our Government and our economy. (*Interruption*). I hope Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh will remain a nationalist and not a party man. Let us pray for strength at this hour of our weakness and for courage at the hour of our strength to rise as one man in the struggle before us to fulfil the destiny of Nigeria in leading Africa to a world of peace, honour and justice to all men.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. (*Applause*).



**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, we have listened to a speech which is partially relevant to the subject of discussion and the exposition of the national aspirations of our people, but of little content value as a speech on the financial and economic policy of this Government. That being the case, Sir, I will not go into the realm of political philosophy or ancient African history or a discussion of our future objective.

Now Sir, in this Supplementary Budget I want to say that the Government would now consider itself as a caretaker government for the next four months when the general election will take place and then the Action Group will be out of the Government of this country. We will have no more national Government as we are having now (*Applause*)...and will have a Government and an opposition with Chief Awolowo sitting over there and my learned friend Chief Akintola and Chief Ayo Rosiji...

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) :** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, where will Dr Azikiwe sit ?

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. Mr Jaja Wachuku has little time to spend.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** That point is most important because it has not been possible to settle down to plan for the future development of this country. It has gone on already with the economic programme that had been established. Because of the presence of this particular political virus in the system, it has not been possible to lay the foundation for the Government of 1960.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Where will Zik be ? Tell us !

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** He will be where the nation wants him to be.

Now, Sir, we have listened to the Minister of Finance's speech. In the first place we appreciate the work that this Government has done and the work our people have done since the introduction of Ministerial system since 1952. Anybody who has had an opportunity either to read the history of this country from about 1884 during the Berlin Congress to 1890, and from 1900 upwards until 1952 when Ministerial Government was introduced, will find that the development which has been made in the last seven years has exceeded what

took place about 60 years before. So in the field of economic development and in fact in intellectual development all round, credit will go to our people irrespective of political affiliations because it shows that the African can achieve when he wants to.

Sir, the Minister told us here that he has got us £15m. loan ; we are happy and we are grateful and we are thankful to those who have made it possible for us to get that loan. But my one worry, Sir, is this the Minister did not tell us what plans we have to pay back the loan and I know, Sir, there is also a move to obtain a loan of £55m. in connection with other schemes. I am worried, Sir, I do not know how we have to pay back this loan. Now, Sir, that being the case I am in full support of Mr Daldry's speech. Not only must we go out for loans, we must sit down to count our resources and make plans and how to make those resources available to meet our commitments.

This brings me to a point, Sir, My hon. and learned Friend the Minister of Communications and Aviation—he will be very much in the picture now—he signed an agreement for fifteen years by which this country will pay BOAC £30m. pounds under the guise of a company in which he happened to represent the Government, a company in which he puts incompetent people who keep on running the corporation at a loss every day. (*Cries of shame, shame from some honourable members*). This House or this country has not been told who authorised such iniquitous agreement, who authorised the signature of that agreement when it was authorised and whether it was to the best interest of the country. Sir, in the recent Inquiry when the particular document was called for to be tendered and was rejected.....

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) :** On a point of order, Sir, the hon. Member is referring to a matter which is the subject of a judicial tribunal.

**Mr Speaker :** Also, it is one of the Motions selected for debate tomorrow and therefore it need not be taken at great length.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** I am grateful to you Mr Speaker. The document was referred to in evidence and was not even tendered ; the Inquiry was a settlement of this dispute.

Now, Sir, apart from that I want to intimate this to the House. I am referring to a document which I have here called the "Zodiac",



**[Mr Jaja Wachuku]**

the publication of Cable and Wireless. Around May this year, my learned and hon. Friend the Minister of Communications and Aviation with Mr Edgar of Cable and Wireless signed a renewal agreement for the Cable and Wireless. It says here, "Mr Edgar concluded his visit by receiving from the Minister of Communications and Aviation the renewal of the company's licence to operate in Nigeria". Now, my point, Sir, is that this Cable and Wireless agreement is due for renewal in 1961. But the Minister has renewed this agreement two years before the time it is due for renewal. (*Cries of Shame, shame from some hon. Members*).

Sir, what are the financial implications of that agreement? (*Interruptions*) It is not a matter to be laughed at. You will appreciate that in a thing like Cable and Wireless in this our world every independent nation is very sensitive to the control of the means of external communications, Cable and Wireless. Internal communication is a different thing. Now this country will be independent in 1960; the agreement will be due for renewal in 1961, but it is renewed for fifteen years ahead of the time for its renewal. Now there is something there. For instance, Sir, in the 1956-57 accounts you will see the Cable and Wireless in Nigeria makes a turnover of £40,000 every month. My question to the Minister of Finance is this. Do they pay income tax? As far as I know I am not so sure. How much do they pay? Also, Sir, in this Cable and Wireless in the seventy-four years of its operation, there is not a single Nigerian who has come to the stage of a Senior Servant. A man who has put in 30 years service is now only on a salary of £730 per annum. That is the Cable and Wireless. And one man who has served this company for 40 years retired on a salary of £426 per annum. He is living at Obalende Road there.

Now, Sir, the Minister is here. Our money is being drained, the Minister does nothing, he renews the agreement two years ahead of of schedule. Our people are there; not one of them is in any high post except one man on £720 who is an accountant, and there are twenty expatriate officers there. No single Nigerian has been thought fit in 74 years to come to the rank of a Senior Service! And yet they make a profit of £40,000 every month.

In London, how much do they make? How much do they pay to the coffers of this Government? (*Interruption*). Chief Akintola, you signed that agreement. Now, Sir, elsewhere I shall have occasion to deal more adequately on this particular subject, but I feel that from the financial and economic angle communication is most important, and the Minister owes it as a responsibility to this State to tell us why he should commit the nation to all this.

**An hon. Member :** You have sold the country.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): You have condemned me before the trial!

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Now, Sir, I am asking the Government not to go any further to committing this nation between now and December to any major and heavy loan commitment until after the general election. We should now concentrate on finding money to complete our present economic programme. The present Government can do the groundwork of setting up an Economic Planning Commission for the whole country which will enable the Government to survey our resources to establish priorities, and then when we go out we know what it will cost so that when you send out the Minister of Finance you know exactly what we are borrowing for and we know what we have to pay. I am saying this, Sir, because I saw this type of thing in India and it is one of the best that is in existence now. We want to survey our resources and then, Sir, we should also leave room for economic bargaining. If we make all financial commitments now and find that after independence we are tied to one block or the other, we will have no room for manoeuvres and that will be detrimental to the cause of our independence.

Now, Sir, after we have won our political independence the next phase in our development will be an economic war of independence.

*Sitting suspended : 1. p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, before the House adjourned this morning, I was at a point in my argument when I stated that next to the political war, political independence, the next phase will be war of economic independence. In that respect, Sir,



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]

the forefront of that war must be the question of the development of industries. In this respect still the establishment of the iron and steel industry must come foremost, Sir, because from the experience of other countries without this particular industry all types of development becomes virtually impossible. The development of iron and steel industry is the backbone of a nation's economy, and for a country in tropical Africa it is more so. Sir, it may be necessary to remind Members that we here have large deposits of iron in Lokoja, in the Agbaja Ngwo areas. (I referred to this during the Budget Session) about 1,000 million tons iron deposit of 50 per cent pure iron in Lokoja, and then in Enugu area you have 900,000 tons of iron deposit, more than 40 per cent pure iron.

**Several hon. Members :** How do you know ?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Geologists reported on that. I am not a Geologist. I know that in Liberia they assessed their iron ore as 70 per cent pure iron—it is the purest in the world. I say this, Sir, because—I do not want to burden the House, otherwise I would have read a section of a report called "India, 1958" page 19—for information of those who may be interested in it. In that report you will find (here is a backward nation, underdeveloped area, a country that has gone through the same mill as we are going through now, with a large deposit of iron at the time of Alexander the Great who collected some iron deposit) 60 per cent pure iron; there was proof that indigenous industry may be backward but worthwhile.

We know that in this country we have been working on iron before the British came, and that no such thing has been developed. Now, in India we have iron and steel mills all over the whole place. We require implements to be milled for road and bridge development. If there is any country that requires steel, I think our country requires more in the development of future industry. Therefore the Government have to take this into very serious consideration. I say this because it may be said, "Well, there is no money to do that". If there is any loan to be looked for, I think in the field of this type of industry, when industrialisation comes in a big way, you will find then we have to look for large sums of money for development. That

is why now haphazard and spasmodic development loans and bad expenditure on land methods is detrimental to our interests. When the Government starts real development you will find foreign lending will not be adequate for that development. If we tie ourselves now, we find that we will not have enough room to manoeuvre.

Following that, Sir, I do not know whether this has been given sufficient consideration. The internal trade of this country has not been considered at all. We think of our imports and exports—cocoa, palm produce, and the rest—and we import singlets and all sorts of things, but the actual internal trade of this country—trade between the North and the East, the East and the West, the West and the North—nobody has thought of organising that. I think it is the duty of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, and all the economic sections of the Government, to consider that very seriously. I do not think there is enough to carry out all the economic programmes that the Government has made.

I want to refer to a petition by the North Amalgamated Mines Middlemen's Association which has been sent to myself and I think to a number of Members here. Here are the Syrians using vans in carrying goods to the rural areas to sell to the people. When I was saying that the Minister of Finance should go and withdraw all our money from the Bank of West Africa now, I said so because this Bank of West Africa finances the Syrians and the Syrians use all this money to buy goods and go to the rural areas and undersell our people. And when our poor people go to this Bank, they will not give them the same sympathy that is given to these Syrians. (*Applause*). The Minister of Finance should withdraw every penny from the Bank of West Africa and deposit it in the Central Bank now. These Syrians come here with no beds. Somebody took them to this Bank for advances and they began to acquire property in Lagos here, and many of our people are losing their land to the Syrians, just because they have no financial backing. Withdraw the money from the Bank....

*The Minister of Communications and Aviation rose.*

**Several hon. Members :** Allow him to speak now.



**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** The financial Action Group.

I am saying, Sir, in all seriousness that the Minister of Trade and Industry should take this into very serious consideration. Foreign companies now should not be allowed to begin to dabble with the petty traders. They go to the markets and enquire into the retail prices of goods in the market and they go to the shops and compare that in order to fix their prices in the shops. I have seen that myself. I am not talking of what I do not know. (*Applause*). You should make legislation that they should stop retail business. These Syrians must be taxed. They do not pay enough tax in this country. They are ruining us and that is a fiscal measure that will be fruitful in the interests of our people.

Another aspect, Sir, I want to emphasise is for the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of Finance to consider the insurance. Two financial institutions in any country handle the finances of that nation—the banks and the insurance companies. The insurance companies make so much money that they do not know what to do with it. I think the Government must consider the position of insurance companies in Nigeria now. I want people to be trained in insurance business so that their excess money can be lent to the Government or be used for development of industries.

I do not know, when I mention that some people will simply be shaking ; I do not want to say anything about that, but the insurance company should be a national matter and the Ministry of Trade and Industry should take upon itself to see to it that insurance, as far as Nigeria is concerned, should be taken on a national level, and a national insurance company must be introduced now. If you run it for five years you will find what I am saying now. It is one of the sources of capital for development.

Now, Sir, in this respect I want to say that we have not had adequate consideration of the recruitment of qualified Nigerian Economists to the Government service. I know a number of people better qualified than some people who go by the name of Professors. I know a Research Assistant who is now a Professor in the field of Economics in this country, and there are Nigerians better qualified who have been asked to remain as lecturers in renowned

British Universities, but when they cannot remain there under people less qualified than themselves, the result is that they go to the Nigerian College of Arts Science and Technology, and they are not even considered here. I want, Sir, in the Economic Division of the Prime Minister's Office competent Nigerian Economists

**Mr Speaker :** Two minutes more.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Competent Nigerian Economists must be brought in there and in the Ministry of Finance too. This will enable the Government to make use of the talents of these people because they are in identity of interest with the Ministers and the Government ; they have no other interests outside ; they consider themselves a feature in the future of Nigeria and the economic policy must be consistent with what they believe and they will not have an eye in the development of industry elsewhere.

I want to say, Sir, I know I have been regarded as the "bad boy" of this House. This is a democratic Parliament : we are critical of ourselves. I did not say that the Government is so evil that it has no good. I started by saying, "Looking back since 1954 when I became a Member of this House"—and I will continue to be a Member of this House. (*Applause*). I will still be here when my Friend Chief Akintola will be in Ogbomosho ; the only thing he can do is to attend the Chiefs' Conference.

The other thing I said, Sir, is that we should not allow our Friend Akintola and others to make commitments that are inimical to the best interest of this country.....

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. The hon. Member's time is up.

**Mr E. C. W. Howard** (Special Member) : Mr Speaker, I do not intend to take up much time of the House. But there is one point which I feel I must draw again the attention of the Minister of Finance.

At the Budget Session in 1958 I raised the matter of the differentiation between commerce and industries in respect of certain allowances. I am raising the matter again as I still consider that it is in the best interests of the country that these differences should be removed. Unfortunately, I did not find the Minister in a



receptive mood. He brought forward his heavy artillery in the shape of his Ministry and fired at broad side at me and when the Minister of Commerce and Industry saw me looking a bit sad he comforted me by saying that he was there to see that commerce did not suffer unduly. The trouble is that the hon. Gentleman is not there now, he is now seated over here. However, I did say that I hope whenever the financial position of this country allowed this discrimination between commerce and industry would be removed.

The second point I would like to make is in connection with Civil Aviation. In the five-year programme the sum £1,600,000 was allocated for Civil Aviation of which £½ million was in respect of improvement of runways. I would like to say that I am fully in agreement with the policy which improves runways first as an aerodrome is not of much use without runways. On the other hand, Sir, perhaps I might suggest that all the money which is shown as being in the capital expenditure is not truly in the capital expenditure. I think that at least thirty thousand modern aeroplanes have landed at Kano runway since it was opened, and in any case quite a lot of maintenance would have been done, whereas now the whole has been charged to capital expenditure. I suggest to the hon. Minister who is responsible for Aviation that he should try to use this argument to try to get some more money from the Minister of Finance.

Sir, having put the runways in order, there are one or two things which I would like to give some attention and quickly too. When people come to this country during the independence celebrations, they will mostly travel by air. When they first arrive, they see a fine airport at Kano but when they come to Lagos they see a very patched work, some old and some new buildings. When they travel from Kano to the East they arrive at Port Harcourt and find there what can only be described as a dump. I hope that some money will be found by scraping the barrel so that something may be done to improve the buildings at Port Harcourt and before the 1960 celebrations. Enugu too needs some attention and there are several other air fields which could be improved. Air travel in Nigeria will develop, always assuming that the internal services are both adequate and fares are at a reasonable level.

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa** (North East Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill with some reservation. I would like to congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill which I would call "Emoluments and Personal Allowances to the public officers of the country". Yes, that is what I call it. We are going too far ahead without minding what is actually the financial position of the country. We cannot continue to go on borrowing. I am sure so many people have spoken on this, not minding the consequences of what will be the effect of borrowing. If we want this country to progress, it must progress on the sound condition of the economy of the country. We must look for what we are able to do and do it not only because we want to do it, but because we can also do it, that is economy. To evolve a sound economy for the country, people should plan well ahead.

I will leave this aside and come to one point in the Finance Minister's speech which I want to touch in particular. In this speech he said "I had the opportunity of discussing with the leaders of the countries I visited the problems they have faced since they became self-governing and I was most impressed by the great advances made in industrialisation. In India, in particular, great emphasis is being laid upon the encouragement and setting up of basic industries, such as the steel industry, primarily so as to enable them to safeguard their foreign exchange position. In addition there is great diversity in the field of light industry and I saw many successful and efficiently managed small factories which have been created by private enterprise with the sympathetic assistance of the Indian Government. There is no doubt in my mind that we too in Nigeria must devote our serious attention to basic industrialisation and should make every effort to exploit the iron ore and other mineral deposits which we know our country possesses." This is a very great thing for the Finance Minister, I can say what is the Government doing about sympathetic assistance to the industries in the country?

I can digress a little and quote what the Prime Minister said once. "It is upon commerce that we depend for the means to raise the general standard of living and to provide the



**[Mr Obaje]**

under the leadership of our able Prime Minister about three years ago, the way they discharge their duties was so able and efficient. I must come out frankly that this genius has proved an indication that the leader of the present Government, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, will be returned unopposed, by the Grace of God. Despite the discord of some politicians, Nigeria will ever remain and stand for the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. to run the Government of the Federation.

Now, Sir, I would like the Minister of Commerce and Industry to encourage more industries in this country particularly on the economic field of palm produce, cotton, groundnut, benniseed and soya beans, so that the price may be increased by fifty per cent on each as this would encourage our farmers in the country. If their produce is fairly paid for by the Government, there will not be any hesitation that the imported goods should not move fast from our local traders in the market, but not keeping on adding to the prices of imported goods in this country and ever keep at a stand still the prices of export produce of the country. I am advising the Minister very seriously to look into this affairs and see to it that the price of produce be increased.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on industrial development projects, I would like the Minister to encourage the people living in the River Niger area, particularly Igala Division in iron and steel industry, building of boats, and other Industrial development, as this would encourage the growth of a town. In turn it will attract a substantial number of people from a very large unemployed population. Sir, if this Government is to cater for all corners of the Federation, I think the Minister will revise his memory on this as soon as he gets back to his office.

Mr Speaker, I would not have spoken anything this time, about the Ministry of Communications and Aviation. But, Sir, something has struck in my mind to speak about this Ministry. In the "Daily Times" of 18th July, 1959, the Minister has made a statement scheduling the hours and days of the telephone service; but, Sir, I was highly astonished when I read the statement that Idah should not be opened on Sundays and Public Holidays for telegraph services. Then why should places like Epe, Ogwashiuku, Agegebode and Bida continue the service on

Sundays and Public Holidays? There is no reason why Idah post office should not be opened on Sundays and Public Holidays. It will not help messages from Ankpa, Ayangba, Basa-Komo if, received on Sundays, they cannot connect with mails leaving on Mondays.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my people have asked me to inform the Minister concerned without fear of contradiction that the service of letters in Idah post office is inadequate, in view of the fact that the population of the town is growing rapidly. Therefore the provision of pillar boxes will be highly appreciated.

**Mr Speaker:** This speech is really too much devoted to detail and too little to the financial policy.

**Mr Obaje:** I am now coming back to the Minister of Works. Although he is not here his Parliamentary Secretary is and I will not stop saying this until provision has been made to my Division. There is only one Federal road in Igala Division. Since 1954 nothing has been done on this road. There must be a provision to this effect because this road is very very bad.....

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Member is disregarding my remarks. He really must draw the attention of the House now to the financial and economic programme of the Government, otherwise he must resume his seat.

**Mr Obaje:** With these few remarks I support the Second Reading.

**Mr Speaker:** Before I call Chief Solaru I am committed to say that the Minister of Finance must, of course, reply at the end. Chief Solaru will confine himself to about a quarter of an hour.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** I shall even finish before a quarter of an hour, Sir.

I shall confine myself to two aspects of the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister and which perhaps will bear repeating, and one point I think ought to be hammered out at this time. After all, as an outgoing Member of the House of Representatives I think I am permitted to fire my parting shots at the Finance Minister and the Minister of Works. Those are the two people whom I have to speak to on this occasion. I hope I will be able to cross swords with them on other platforms, but nevertheless, it will be with some vehemence but, I hope, also with the same sincerity.



Some time this year, or was it last year, the Federal House passed into law a Bill put forward by the Finance Minister for abolishing the Finance Committee. Now they gave us very good reasons: they assured us that it was necessary to abolish the Finance Committee. We all agreed because you see they are respected Ministers and we have confidence in them. But it would be foolish of this House or any subsequent House not to watch the financial interest of the country very closely. I am drawing your attention to that fund which is called the Contingency Fund. By abolishing the Finance Committee as we did, we trusted our Minister or Ministers and their advisers, with the sum of £1 million to go on with—a kind of pin money. Well, now, the thing is that they wanted to cut out the delays which they encounter by going through the Finance Committee. But they owe it to us, especially the Finance Minister, not only to see that this money is spent, directed to the most urgent need, but also to see that they are not hoodwinked into just giving the money away and letting it go down the drain.

The Bill provides they should come back to this House and recoup the fund. Here in the Supplementary Budget of the Minister he mentioned he is going to recoup, he says with a sum of about £170,000 which means that £170,000 has been spent. He gave account to the House and he mentioned a few things in the Supplementary Estimates here and I saw one single item is going to consume £100,000. What do you think that is? Salaries and Emoluments. Do not forget that at the last February Budget Session we had Estimates which were supposed to be passed for the year. Now a Supplementary Estimate should be for something that is unforeseen which has arisen and for which money must be found. £100,000 for emoluments with no supplementary note to explain how and why it is, leaves us very much in the dark. I know that the £100,000 is not going into the pockets of the Minister, that is not the charge. The thing is, if we entrusted the Minister with £1 million we hope that even if it is in a footnote or in any other way he will endeavour to carry us with him, as to how he has disbursed the £170,000. But merely to roll them up into one huge lump and say £100,000 for salaries and emoluments rather leaves us a little in the shade. He knows that if a proposal were

brought to the Finance Committee costing £100,000 for salaries I think many brows will be raised asking the Minister to explain, and he will find it difficult to justify, or if he did it would have to be a very good reason indeed. What I am saying is that for apparently good reasons but of which we are in the dark we are voting £100,000 for salaries and emoluments.

I go on to loans, internal or external. I deal with external loans first. It is the degree of confidence that other countries have in us and in our Government that these loans are forthcoming. They never used to be so forthcoming but because we have endeavoured in this country, to the surprise of a great part of the world, to maintain a stable Government, although we quarrel violently internally among ourselves when it comes to national matters we close our ranks and I hope we shall continue to do so, these loans have been successful. It is, therefore, as some other speakers have said, incumbent upon us to see that the loans are put to productive use. If they are merely to be raised to pay salaries and emoluments it is merely money going down the drain, and I would like to say that it is incumbent on Members of this House, whether new or forthcoming, to see that when loans are raised the monies are directed to productive measures.

Now I come to our internal loans. We rejoiced, we clapped and cheered the Minister when he announced that the loan of £2 million was over-subscribed by £ $\frac{3}{4}$  million. I do not think it is something we can rejoice very much about if we knew the details. If the Minister published the details of those who loaned the money you would find that the Nigerian figured very poorly. The common man, the ordinary people whose savings we want to encourage and we want to tap, well, he has not been reached. I happen to know that a single institution subscribed £ $\frac{1}{2}$  million. What is left to the others? We thank them for it because that is money lying somewhere and they saw that this money could be put into our development fund. But an institution giving us £ $\frac{1}{2}$  million, it means the rest of Nigeria and other commercial houses contributed £1 $\frac{1}{2}$  million, and if you saw the details you would find that other commercial houses and banks have subscribed most of this money. Where is the opportunity for us to pat ourselves on the back



[CHIEF SOLARU]

That is why I would like to underline what Mr Daldry has said about the Ordinary Savings Certificates and National Savings Certificates so that ordinary people can have a stake in the development of their own country. They can feel that by stinting their pockets, by sacrificing, they are helping forward some useful project. Sir, this is a good beginning but I hope that it will be far-reaching enough to the ordinary people whose country it is we are developing.

Sir, I would like, while my eye catches it, to call the attention of the Minister of Lagos Affairs to the fact that much as the new buildings are going up in Lagos and we are adorning Lagos for the Independence Celebrations, we do not yet know what the Minister is proposing to do to the ugly patch, just as you leave Carter Bridge and you come into Lagos. You look right and you look left and what do you see? A dreary wilderness of a dilapidated mass of tin shacks and so on. All along, that is the first thing coming into Lagos that those who fly in from Kano or Ikeja will see. What is happening? When the Queen came we managed to shut off that slum by bright tin shacks, but they are now no longer bright, no longer shining. But what about these other slums that are springing up? I am saying this because I feel that our people ought to be brought to realise how much they are contributing to spreading ugliness around. It is all right marching around the streets in nylon or woollen shirts and that kind of thing. But look at the places they all come from. They put up a good house and then the Town Council allows tin shacks to be put in front of houses, just for commercial purposes. I think the Government ought to step in and make this Capital really worth its name. That foreshore is an eyesore and cries to high heaven for clearance and at once.

Sir, having said that I would like to make a quick rejoinder to the question of telephones and I hope the Minister of Communications and Aviation will listen. Most of us are victims of the answers from the Telephone Operators, "There is going to be four hours delay". I am informed that if you suggest to the Operator, "Well, make it at the urgent rate please", the telephone will go through. There is no delay for urgent telephones.

**An hon. Member :** There is.

**Chief Solaru :** Oh, even for urgent telephones. The experience we have is that if you are able to pay the urgent rate it goes right through. Which means that Government and other people who do not have to pay for their own telephones can afford to put their telephones through because they can afford to pay the high rate, whereas the ordinary person who ought to be served by that telephone service cannot afford the higher rate and so cannot get his telephone call through. That is wrong. It is discriminating between the rich and the poor and we say we want a welfare state in this country. If we want a welfare state it should start with the telephone service.

Mr Speaker, it is not enough for us to see all these V.H.F. going up. We want them to be put to good use and to serve the ordinary person, not only the high Government official who can spend other people's money. The Minister spoke about the damming of our big rivers in order to supply electricity for agricultural purposes. These are laudable schemes but I would like to remind him not to put all his eggs in one basket. These are days when new sources of power are discovered, from very unlikely sources. We talk about dams for electricity because they are cheap. The time is coming when we might even find cheaper forms of power and I do hope they take account of developments in other parts of the world. I understand that other countries are building atomic piles for providing power for industry, for lighting and heating. This also should be explored and not left until we are saddled with plants for which we shall find no use in the future.

I am talking about agriculture. That is where the damming of our great rivers can help great tracks of land which we see on either side as we go from the forest areas into the grassland. Those places are fertile agricultural country and they are dying now for lack of water. So that the damming of our rivers for irrigation purposes should take priority in bringing wealth to the country. If some of these loans are diverted to this use it will be money well spent. We shall be able to find food for our country and food to export abroad.

Having said that I know that there are many other things to say and there are other people to say them. I would then like to end on this note : the life of this House has now come to an



end and each and every one of us can feel quite conscientiously that he has contributed towards it whether on the Government Bench, whether as a Government party supporter or otherwise, we are all in this together. And that is where I would like to say that in implementing the suggestion put forward by the Committee on Aid to African Businessmen to implore those who have to implement it to remember that they are serving Nigerians, not any one political party. The prosperity of one is the prosperity of all. It does not matter whether one belongs to this or that party, so long as we are Nigerians we all ought to share the benefits that God has provided for this great country of Nigeria. Whether it happens in the East or in the West is a different matter. Two wrongs do not make one right. If it is not done enough in the Western Region all the more reason why we who have the opportunity at the National Government level should do it.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say that if there is anything we have learnt in this Federal Legislature we have learnt to live and work together despite differences. When we have fought each other—verbal words, I am sure there have been no fisticuffs so far—we have shown ourselves more mature than some Parliaments I know of over there. I am not talking of Great Britain—Great Britain is the Mother of Parliaments, but there are other parliaments where during their day or night sessions they with their long generations of civilisation behind them, have rolled up their shirt-sleeves and sometimes pulled out their firearms and fired shots across. That has not happened here because we have learned quite a lot by the example of our wise and learned Speaker. We have learned how to not only get our points across but to get them across with plenty of good humour and give as well as receive, all in good spirit. If there is anything we have learnt in this Federal Legislature I think that has been contributed largely by our honourable Speaker.

Mr Speaker, in supporting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill once more we are grateful to the Council of Ministers and to the Minister of Finance who is our first Minister, for presenting this Bill and all the other Bills he has presented since he became Minister, and we hope that wherever the winds of politics might sweep him, he will continue to be useful to the country.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I never originally intended to take part in the debate at this stage, but in view of the various comments made within the last two or three days I felt that it would be obligatory on my part to give a few words of explanation. I understand that the stormy wind of politics may soon take wings, and, like many others here, I do not know in whatever direction it will blow me. Therefore I will hasten like my colleague, the Minister of Finance, with whom I am in the same boat of uncertainty, to give a word of explanation.

It is being said that the Ministry of Communications and Aviation has entered into an agreement with the BOAC in a way that will impose an obligation on Nigeria. Well, I would declare openly here that I have not entered into any agreement whatever with the BOAC.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Who entered into it?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation**: That is a different question altogether and I will be coming to that if only you will bear with me. I have not entered into any agreement with the BOAC.

Now hon. Members will remember that originally the West African Governments were operating an airline together in the name of West African Airways Corporation. By reason of Ghana obtaining sovereignty she chose to contract out of that union and it became obligatory on our part to start an airline of our own. Various proposals came up. One was that we should go all out to operate an airline of our own. Now after further consideration, the Government came to the conclusion that in view of the fact that that provision was not contained in our five-year development programme, we would be hard put to find fresh money for starting an airline of our own. It was therefore decided that in order to get money we could invite outsiders to come in. Secondly, we were lacking in technical know-how and in order to get that technical know-how as well, we should cast our net fairly wide not only to catch the financiers but also to catch the experts with technical know-how.

It was with this decision that we went out to find partners and we decided, and I brought the information to the Floor of this House, that we were going to start a limited liability



## [MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AVIATION]

company, a private company which would allow outsiders to come in to bring in not only money but technical know-how as well. Then the Nigerian Airways was formed as a limited liability company, a private company of which the Government of the Federation is only a shareholder.

Now, although we are the shareholders in this concern, we decided too that we were not prepared to put in fresh capital to the new Nigerian Airlines. We said that all our assets in the old West African Airways Corporation should be realised and should form our total shareholding in the new Nigerian Airways. If fresh money was required, it should come from the partners who join in. It was on this principle that the new Nigerian Airways was formed. After the Company was established and we nominated our own directors on the Company and the other shareholders also had their own directors, from that day the Company became a private limited liability company like any other private company and it was not open either to me as the Minister in charge or to the Minister of Finance who is in charge of money to interfere in what this private company was doing... (*Interruption*)...

I am quite sure that my learned Friend, hon. Jaja Wachuku, who is a lawyer knows the limitations of a shareholder in a limited liability company. I am not here to defend what has been done rightly or what has been done wrongly by this private company but I am explaining to this hon. House the consequence of the decision we have taken to start a limited liability company. When we became shareholders in this company, our rights and privileges were limited and governed, like the rights and privileges of shareholders in similar organisations... (*Interruption*) I am quite sure that those who have experience and who have ever held shares in companies, like my good friend to my right here, will understand my language. I do not expect hon. Onyia who has never held a share in any company to understand what I am saying... (*continued Interruption*). That is why I have always felt that you are a museum piece of antiquity.

Now, that is the position. From the day that this limited liability was formed, it was the responsibility of the new Company with its own directors to organise its own affairs

and to be able to run this company in a way that would not impose additional financial obligations on the Government of the Federation... (*Interruption*)... If hon. Members will allow me to have a say, I will continue by saying that in the first instance, I will repeat that I have not entered into any agreement with B.O.A.C. either personally or in my capacity as a member of the Government. That has never been done.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Are you a member of the Company ?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** I am not a member of the company, but by the grace of God, with or without and in spite of the will of hon. Jaja Wachuku, I am a member of the Government of this Federation. Now, since the Company was formed, it was the responsibility of the Board of Directors to run the affairs of the Company and when the criticisms started against the company entering into any agreement... (*continued Interruption*). very soon hon. Members opposite me will learn that I have an able lieutenant to their left.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** He is a disabled lieutenant.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** If you know what K.O. means, you will know that he is not a disabled lieutenant and before you realise this you may be knocked out.

Now, when the question was raised both in the Press and by some hon. Members I took care myself to find out whether this country had directly or indirectly been committed to any agreement and I discovered that all that people made a lot about was an agreement between this new company and the B.O.A.C. regarding the charter of planes which they would use between Nigeria and the United Kingdom. That was the agreement, and the terms of this agreement are the usual terms and in identical terms with the one entered into by the Ghana Government and the B.O.A.C. I do not propose, apart from answering in general terms to go into detail on this occasion. Before this House rises, either on the Third Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill or in some other connection, I will be able to go into detail on this. But I would allay your fears that from what I have seen so far the



Company itself has done nothing that imposes any obligation on the Government of the Federation. In fact, with the support of this House, any Government of the Federation can wind up the new Nigerian Airways tomorrow. You can terminate any contract entered into. When you terminate the life of the Company itself, *ipso facto* you terminate the life of the Agreement which has been entered into. So it is not true that the Government of the Federation has been committed inexorably into any Agreement.

I have said that the Agreement entered into so far was in connection with the charter of planes by the new Company and I enquired further. Why was it necessary for planes to be chartered by the new company? They explained that this was absolutely necessary because, firstly, if we were to start running international service on our own we would require at least £3 million to purchase aircraft. That was the explanation given to me by the experts. We could not find the money. Secondly, the company said they were advised by experts that if even they had this £3 million now it would be unwise for them to invest in new aircraft because the design of aeroplanes changes so frequently that what you buy to-day may be obsolete within the next three or four years, so that it would be a good thing if even they had the money to hold the money in the meantime until there was some stability in the field of aircraft designing. After that period they might purchase aeroplanes on their own.

The Company therefore decided that in view of that they were going to make arrangements for the charter of planes until either they had money to buy planes on their own or until the aircraft designing became a little more stable in their activities. Well, I have said that in making this arrangement the new Company did not require my approval. They did not require the approval of the Government in coming to this business arrangement. Once the Company was formed they were perfectly at liberty to start operating their business in accordance with the Articles and Memorandum of Association.

Now, my own position in relation to the new company is difficult in that it is not identical with the position of a Minister *vis a vis* a statutory corporation. In the case of a statu-

tory corporation, the duties of a Minister in relation to the corporation will be specifically defined but in this case we started a private company which was not a statutory corporation and I therefore do not think that will be in the best interests of the Government for me, without being given power by any law of the land or by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, to keep on interfering in the day-to-day activities of the Company. I understand that people have said a lot about losses of the Company. Whether the Company has sustained any losses or not, I have not seen the Company's balance sheet to know. It has not yet even been operated for a year since it was formed. Whether we were right or we were wrong in making it a private company, that will be the responsibility not only of the Government but of this hon. House as well. We decided to make it a limited liability company for the reasons which I have already given you. I will go back to say that I give an assurance that if any further detail is required in the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill I am prepared to give it. But I assure this hon. House that contrary to what has been said, I have not entered into any Agreement whatsoever with the B.O.A.C.... (Interruption).... I have always said that the language of the law during this age is a little bit different from what it was a century ago.

The other point mentioned was in connection with Cable and Wireless. I now propose at this stage to answer only one aspect of the question. I want to defer answering the other aspect until I have the opportunity of going into detail during the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill. Now, my hon. and learned Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, said that I signed an agreement and that when I signed the agreement I was not mindful of the security of the realm and that international messages would be sent even after independence through Cable and Wireless. In the best interest of the House I must mention that Cable and Wireless is no longer owned by any one company. It is a Commonwealth concern operated by the whole of the Commonwealth and this arrangement had been made shortly after the war. And all the shares of the original shareholders have been bought up by various Commonwealth countries together and they are responsible for the Cable and Wireless to-day.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Who owns it ?



**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** How can you own different sections of one human body? The Cable and Wireless is one individual entity. Imagine that someone owning the head, and someone owning the feet and so on! The Cable and Wireless does not consist of the physical building which you see on the shore there. In fact the shore installation connects all other shore installations all over the world. If you own Cable and Wireless here, what do you own? Is it the building on the Marina there or the cable running from here to Antananarivo and Madagascar?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Ghana wants to take their own.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Ghana has not taken its own. That is why I feel it will be extremely useful if Members would try to acquaint themselves with the facts before statements are made here. If even Ghana decided to own the shore installations, what right does that confer! Will Ghana own even the cable under the sea to Nigeria? So what has been arranged is that the whole of Cable and Wireless would belong to the whole of the Commonwealth, but all independent countries have representatives on the controlling body and when representation was made to the Nigerian Government we had the assurance that immediately we too attained independence, we are going to have representation like Australia, New Zealand and all the other independent countries on the board controlling Cable and Wireless. That was the assurance which you were given.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** What of those who operate them at the various points.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Those who operate them at the various points will not matter, because they are servants to the controlling body and they would be chosen by those who control the whole of the operation.

My hon. Friend also mentioned the question of security. Even now, for the benefit of the House, I would mention that we send messages. The Security Branch of the Government of the Federation sends messages to all over the world and these messages are sent in code. They need not be known by Cable and Wireless, and invariably they do not know what message is sent. It is official. As I said

before, I would like hon. Members to be assured that what has been done so far will in no way affect the security of the realm. If further explanations are required, I am quite sure that I will give them during the Committee Stage of the Appropriation Bill.

One hon. Member mentioned the question of fare being paid between Lagos and Kano, that is those who travel by air. The fare is also decided by the firm. We want the route to be self-sufficient, to be paying itself, and the fare being levied at the moment is based on the ability of the air line being able to pay its own way. But it is not a one-way party. Fares are decided upon after consultation among the various air lines operating along the route. If the Government of the Federation is prepared to subsidise air travel in Nigeria, I am quite sure it will be convenient for the Nigerian Airways to reduce the fare; and if fares are reduced, then that will be all right and I can advise then that possibly the Nigerian Air Lines may be able to reduce the fare.

The time is running very fast. The comments that are made on fares and so on will be answered in the Committee Stage. But I cannot end my speech without congratulating the Members of the House for keeping the Ministry of Communications and Aviation always very wide awake. It has always been a veritable target for attack and I am quite sure that even between now and the time that this Government shall have come to an end it will be a matter of regret for some Members that they can no longer attack the P. and T.

In the meantime I have heard people expressing various hopes about who will come back and who will not come back, and I will add this much that those who are sure that they are coming back should be able to allay our fears, at least in one respect. If even we are coming back to sit down there or in other places in this House, we should, with one voice from my right and from the opposite, be told who will be the captain of the ship. I have heard echoes and echoes of contradictions from the House. I have heard my hon. Friend, Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh, praising and praying for the present Prime Minister of the Federation, and I have heard hon. Dr Okpara, praying for Dr Azikiwe to come here.

**Several hon. Members :** Are you afraid? What is your concern?



**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** And if this is a prayer . . . . .

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Point of Order, Sir, Standing Order 25.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** What does it say ? Read it. *Wayo* man !

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Standing Order 25, Item 3. The reference to Prayer for the present Prime Minister and Dr Azikiwe is absolutely irrelevant.

**Mr Speaker :** I think we had better just close our eyes . . . .

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** All I am requesting is that happily the Simon and Peter are not in this House. Those who will decide who will be the Prime Minister are not those who are here. We are proposing people outside. (*Interruption.*) I have been here before like that, and I appeal to all those overzealous political Members of this House to allay the fears of common people like us. Let them speak with one voice. If those who are here are praying for hon. Balewa to come back, for goodness sake let Dr Azikiwe stay.

*Sitting suspended : 4.35 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 4.50 p.m.*

**Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema) :** It seems to me, Sir, that most hon. Members do not seem to take this last session of this hon. House very seriously. Now, if they did, there would not have been all these heckling and talking and laughing, because when a person is dying the first thing you will notice is that the person is going round his doings in this world to know exactly whether his life has been a success or a failure. If you do not do that you are dying a bad death.

Now, Sir, I am not going to be long because I have to make my comments under the various headings when we come to the Committee of Supply, but I just want to touch upon one or two points. I congratulate the Finance Minister for the way he has directed the financial affairs of this Federation (*Hear, hear*). Every one in this House, in fact all sections of this House, agree in showering encomiums on the Finance Minister. His job has been as robust as his stature and I think we all pray that he may come back to do this good work. (*Loud applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, while I join other Members in congratulating him I want to point out one very significant matter which is at the bottom of the hearts of all those people who come from the area we called Special Areas at the London Constitutional Conference. In the budget estimates the Minister of Finance gave assurance that there was a provision of £250,000 to set up a board, a Special Board, for the Special Area. Mr Speaker, Sir, when I was coming here I thought it would be the first duty of this hon. House to consider because the Secretary of State for the Colonies said in the House of Commons that this House will give direction as to how that Board is to be set up, and I had expected that the first thing to be done on the Floor of this House would be to table a Bill setting up this Board and everything about it so that we can go back to our people and say exactly what this hon. House has done. Up to now, Sir, it seems to me that we are going back without doing anything about that. Our people are waiting; they are very anxious and I would like the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance, if that is the case, to make a statement that this Board is going to be set up as quickly as possible before this House is dissolved. Why did I say this? I said so because the dismemberment of that area is fast proceeding. We do not know what the result may be. Now, we have a very heavy trade centre like Abonnema. We do not see any trade there; all the trade is gone and the firms are folding and I do not know why. They believe that whatever you do in that House is nonsense because you are not going to have your own Special Area or Board. Mr Speaker, I am very serious on this point.

I have always said, Sir, that this House leaves too small surplus balances for a country like Nigeria. The surplus balances do not reflect the greatness of Nigeria. Now here it is only four hundred and forty-nine thousand, six hundred and sixty nine pounds. What I say is this: If we only use our money up every time and depend on our Minister of Finance going abroad to take money, we shall find ourselves in a bad position. "He who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing". We must have our own money and in that connection, Sir, I think I will recall hon. Daldry's remarks that it is not enough to go out to borrow money because this borrowed money must go back to the owners sometime. We



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

was pointing his fingers to me about money to be given for the improvement of aerodromes. I want to say, Sir, that the sum of £750,000 under Head 603 Sub-head 2 (4) is solely for the capital improvements to the Airways at Kano and Lagos and a sum of £200,000 is also provided under Head 54, Part II—Public Works Recurrent for the maintenance of several aerodromes, details of which are stated at page 185 of the Approved Estimates 1959-60. So that if my hon. Friend Mr Howard will approach my respected Colleagues the Minister of Works and Surveys and the Minister of Communications and Aviation, they have got money enough to improve these aerodromes and the sooner hon. Akintola will stop running to Ogbomosho and go instead to Enugu and Port Harcourt to see for himself the better for all of us (*Hear, hear*).

My hon. Friend hon. Jaja Wachuku tried to levy attack that we do not tax Cable and Wireless. I want to assure him that Cable and Wireless are liable to income tax. They are assessed; in fact, they are paying appreciable sums in tax and it will not be correct to say that they earn so much and that they are not liable to tax. They are but I am unable to disclose the amount because it will be wrong for me to disclose whether hon. Akintola is still in arrears or not.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Hon. Jaja is a Minister of mis-information.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : On a point of order, Sir, I said they earn £40,000 per month, but whether they pay income tax. . . . .

**The Minister of Finance** : Are you satisfied with my reply ?

Mr Speaker, Sir, my hon. and respected Friend Mr Daldry made the point that the surplus of £450,000 is not enough. My friend Ekukeri Rock also referred to it this evening. My hon. Friend Mr Daldry said that I was optimistic and perhaps he does not share in that optimism about the buoyancy of our revenue. But I want to say this, that the Government in one year, after bringing into being a fiscal measure which we have initiated this year, has been able to put a sum of £6m. into the capital expenditure fund for development projects. I must say that no revenue can be more buoyant than that and I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me. I think that it is a sizeable

surplus, and apart from that I want to say that the sum total of my existence is optimism, otherwise I will not be existing to-day. The fact is that apart from that I have given my words that when I promise that we envisaged much more than the figure put down there, it is just not to make you feel that we are just working towards surpluses on paper. I can assure you that the figures are realistic and that I am sincere and honest in saying that we expect to get more when the financial year closes. This is borne out of the fact that last year we had more than was anticipated. That was why we were able to get £900,000 but I am sure that during this year we will be able to get much more than that. I am honest in saying so. What is put down there might be optimistic but it is really realistic and I am sure that my assurance will be borne out in due course.

Sir, I wish now to come to some of the points made by my hon. Friend, hon. Bello Dandago when he criticised the one shilling coin, and I want to say that if there is any criticism that can be put at my door it should be put at the door of every Member of this House. You will remember that when the new shilling pieces first came through not only did I mention it here but, I also circulated a few to all Members of this House. One shilling was missing and luckily for me Mr Howard found it from somewhere otherwise the Ijebus could have carried it away.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East) : On a point of order, Sir, I merely wish to say that the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh claims kinship with the Ijebus and that is why he is always talking about them.

**The Minister of Finance** : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will agree that we were all in praise of this new coin, and we all said it was a good one. I have said earlier that we are withdrawing the old money. So this morning I am sure that all Members will agree (and I have seen my hon. Friend nodding to me) that every arrangement made by us was satisfactory when I passed round the new coin. I am sure you will agree with me that we are going to withdraw the old money and that when we shall have withdrawn the old coins and the new threepences and sixpences are brought into circulation, the new shilling piece will be considered a beautiful piece indeed.



The hon. Member for Uyo (Mr Una)—fortunately for him he is not here—started by advertising himself about his being a member of the Action Group and not U.N.I.P. Here is a person who ran away from a sinking boat and entered another sinking boat. The next time he will tell us that he is not Action Group but something else.

My hon. and respected Friend, Dr Mbadiwe, was right in reminding us about protocol and also in telling us his reminiscences of bygone days. Putting all jokes aside, I was moved by the able speech of my respected Friend, but I must say that Dr Mbadiwe's heart is too noble, too genuine to belong to the camp that he wants to go to, and I appeal to him on the Floor of this House that he belongs to the N.P.C. and N.C.N.C. group. (*Applause*).

This brings me to my hon. Friend, Mr Ndem. Mr Ndem started by congratulating me and, like a learner in the destructive system of the Action Group, he failed completely in trying to darken my glorious record. I can assure him that I was not perturbed at all. I only know that a man who, at one time during the life of this House, was sitting there attacking the Action Group, and then was catapulted over here from where he was also attacking the Action Group, and by circumstances of life joined the D.P.N.C. as the lieutenant of Dr Mbadiwe, left Dr Mbadiwe and jumped out near to the door, is not only a rolling stone but is on his way out. (*Applause*).

**Mr U. O. Ndem** (Calabar) : On a point of order, Sir. I have never become an Urhobo and an Itsekiri at one and the same time.

**The Minister of Finance** : Mr Speaker, one thing that is common among the people of the Action Group is that their eyes are so jaundiced by monetary corruption that they are not even able to decipher the right from the wrong. If a man like Mr Ndem is able to stand on the Floor of this House and is not able to differentiate the one pound note from the five-shilling note, as clearly as they are different, can anyone ever take him seriously? (*Several hon. Members : No.*) It is the pattern of debtors to the Action Group. There is one Chief Edukugho of Warri who owes £31,000 to the U.A.C. and the Western Region Government (*Interruption*).

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : You are owing, too.

**The Minister of Finance** : I am not owing anybody. (*Interruption.*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know why my hon. Friend, the Minister of Communications and Aviation, cannot take what he wants to give to others. When I was attacked in the Western Region House of Assembly he was there. (*Interruption*).

**Mr Speaker** : The proceedings of this House are becoming unintelligible to our friends, the Official Reporters, who are endeavouring to record what everybody wants to read the next day.

**The Minister of Finance** : All I want to say is that the voice of Mr Ndem is the voice of an Action Group hireling and that nobody should take him seriously.

My hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode, spoke very seriously, and I want us to take him very seriously when he appealed for unity. He spoke out of his heart when he was appealing for unity, and I want this House to believe him and to take him seriously; he was speaking out of practical experience of the tyranny of the Action Group. If I may ask hon. Fani-Kayode, Mr Speaker, how can he expect unity to be achieved in this country if it is expected by one political party to be a matter of one-way traffic? It must be a bilateral issue. Unity in this country is so vital for the future of this country.

Take for an instance, Sir, this case. We had the honour of calling the Sultan of Sokoto to Lagos to lay the foundation stone of the National Hall a few days ago. You will be surprised to see that although the "Daily Service" had published everything about everybody else, not a word was mentioned about the laying of the foundation stone of the National Hall by the Sultan; not a word, not a picture. Therefore the presence of the Sultan of Sokoto does not even mean anything to that newspaper. (*Several hon. Members : Shame, shame.*) If Chief Akintola had called somebody from the West to lay that foundation stone, for three months the "Daily Service" would have been publishing it. And my hon. Friend is asking for unity. What sort of unity



[MR UDOCHI]

imposition of the increase of duties in certain important articles, certain firms in Lagos made some clearance through the Customs in such a manner as to suggest that they had a pre-knowledge of the increase. A week later, the Minister of Finance, in a Ministerial Statement, reported to the House that he had caused a very detailed investigation to be made as a result of that allegation. And he found that there was no evidence at all for the allegation and the Member's misgivings were not justified. The House was satisfied with this report and the matter closed. But, Sir, to the surprise of everybody in the country, during the sitting of the Western House of Assembly a motion was passed in that House purporting to pray the Governor-General to do certain things in connection with the same matter.

While I am not here to judge the competence or otherwise of the Western House I would like to know what reaction the Federal Government has taken in relation to that Motion.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members are aware that during the last Budget Meeting an hon. Member made a general remark about an alleged Budget leakage. The remarks were made, Sir, in a very general way and the hon. Member did not produce any evidence to prove that he had got any reasons to justify the alleged leakage. As the hon. Member Mr Udochi said, the Minister of Finance asked the Comptroller of Customs and Excise to make an investigation. The investigation was made and the Comptroller was satisfied, Sir, that there was no leakage at all.

Now, this matter was debated, as the hon. Mr Udochi said, in the Western House of

Assembly. I think this was done on the ground that if there was a leakage the loss in revenue would also affect the Regional Governments because they got quite a share from the proceeds of the revenue obtained from those different imports. The text of the Resolution was forwarded to the Governor-General or, I would say, to the Federal Government. I took up the matter myself. I have received all the facts about the matter. In the Western House, Sir, the Debate did not show at all that there was any evidence to prove that there was a leakage. We in the Federal Government are satisfied that there is no proof at all. I am only sorry that the matter left this House and went to the Western House of Assembly.

Now, as far as we in the Federal Government are concerned, we have no intention at all of doing anything beyond what we did. That was what the Minister of Finance has done in asking the Comptroller of Customs to investigate. Time does not allow me, Sir, to tell the House the facts, but we have replied to the Western House of Assembly on the Resolution they forwarded to us in the light of the facts we have. We are satisfied that there was no leakage and that we are not going to do anything at all, nor undertake any new enquiry. The allegations were made in very general terms and nobody up to to-day is prepared to come forward to give any evidence, and so the matter, as far as we are concerned, is now closed. (*Cheers*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at nine minutes to six o'clock.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 11th August, 1959

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. The following paper already distributed to members is deemed to have been laid on the Table :

Final Report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Nigerianisation of the Federal Public Service.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
TRANSPORT

Appointment of Adviser

\*O.172. **Dr K. O Mbadiwe** asked the Minister of Transport whether he is aware that there is public indignation against the appointment of Mr J. H. D. Stapleton as adviser to the Nigerian National Shipping Lines, and whether he will take steps to remedy the situation.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport :** Sir, I am aware that the appointment of Mr J. H. D. Stapleton by the Nigerian National Line has been criticised in the Press. I must remind the hon. Member that the Nigerian National Line is a limited liability company which is free to engage such staff as it may require. I understand that the appointment was made on the strong recommendation of the three Nigerian Directors on the Board. The Chairman of the Line has already made a statement about Mr Stapleton's appointment, and it will be undesirable for me to interfere with the matter.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe :** Can the Minister say to this honourable House that because this is a limited liability company the person in question was not the Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Transport who helped to bring that limited liability company about, and whether it was to the best of tradition in public morality that such an engagement should take place with the knowledge of the Minister if not with his consent ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary :** Sir, the hon. Member is making a statement, not a question.

**Mr U. O. Ndem :** Sir, I want to know whether in view of the public cry against the appointment the Minister is prepared to revoke it.

**Mr Speaker :** I think that has already been answered.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson :** The House would like to know, Sir, if Dr Mbadiwe has performed the Igbandu ceremony.

POSTAL SERVICES

Staff at Ikot Ekpene

\*O.118. **Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation: what will be the strength of the staff of the new post office at Ikot Ekpene when it is opened.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The staff of the new post office at Ikot Ekpene, which was opened this month, consists of a Postmaster, four Postal Officers and Telegraphists, a Postman, a Rural Postman, and a Telegraph Messenger.

Post Office at Ajalli

\*O.174. **Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, if he will state under what circumstances an inquiry was instituted on the building of the Post Office at Ajalli in Awka Division; which Agency conducted the inquiry and what were its findings and recommendations.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Sir, the inquiry to which the hon. Member refers was instituted by the Eastern Regional authorities at my predecessor's personal request. It arose out of a dispute between two communities as to where the post office should be sited, and it was conducted by the Permanent Secretary to the Regional Ministry of Works, who laid the facts before his Minister. The issue to be decided was whether the post office should be built at Ajalli or Aguata: the Regional Minister, having regard to the location of existing post offices in the Awka, Awgu, Okigwi, and Onitsha Divisions, to the relative positions of Ajalli and Aguata in the Aguata District Council area, and to the volume of business conducted by the postal agencies in the two places considered Ajalli's claims the stronger.



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]

Now, Sir, the reason why I read this is to show that the area where they are going to carry out the test is not even a barren place; it is one of the most fertile areas in the desert. And there are over 200,000 Africans living in that neighbourhood. It is not the fate of Britain in the Australian desert; this one is the fate of inhabitants of African descent.

And now to give you a picture of how the minds of those who are preparing this thing are working. I want to say, Sir, that I have read the whole of that excerpt to show how my mind is working in connection with this Motion and how I would like my fellow compatriots to regard this test: a desire to wipe out the black race. And I want it to be written in bold print—we regard this thing as a desire to destroy the African race and make it impossible for us to fulfil our destiny. I would protest and we support the Government of the Federation and we hope that before this House adjourns that the whole of the Members of this House will attune the minds of the nation to this point and make Britain—our protective power—to protest.

Now, Sir, in order to make my point further, I want to refer to "The Rising Tide of Colour" by Lothrop Stoddard. This book was published in 1926—an anti-racial book written by a negrophobist. I have an excerpt there which I want to read to this House.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Who gave it to you?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku**: It is from my library. It is discussing the question of racial survival and preservation.

"It all comes down to a question of self-preservation. And, despite what sentimentalists may say, self-preservation is the first law of nature. To love one's cultural, idealistic, and racial heritage; to swear to pass that heritage unimpaired to one's children; to fight, and, if need be, to die in its defence; all this is eternally right and proper, and no amount of casuistry or sentimentality can alter that unalterable truth."

And it goes further to say, Sir, that:

"Two things are necessary for the continued existence of a race: it must remain itself, and it must breed its best. Every race is the result of ages of development

which evolves specialised capacities that make the race what it is and renders it capable of creative achievement."

Sir, I think this is very material now. The African, from the remotest antiquity, from the beginning of history, in fact according to the pan-African conference on Anthropology held in Kenya in 1947, scientists and anthropologists, having discovered heaps of human remains were beginning to think that the Garden of Eden said to be located somewhere in Palestine, might not be as accurate as it is stated to be. But even the Nile is supposed to be one of the rivers that flow through the Garden of Eden. Considering the barrenness of those areas and the nature of the lake areas of Central Africa, it may well be that those areas of Africa were the origin of the human race. And in fact there is a book recently published, very expensive, co-ordinating Dr Bohm's works in South Africa; you find so many things. Some people say the African has no tradition, no history, no past.

Sir, I do not want to go to any more detail. But I am going further to say that this test involves the racial survival of Africans, and there is no question of going to talk politics or economics. Racial survival. Are we going to allow France to destroy us? Are we going to allow them to destroy our future generation? (*Several hon. Members: No! No!*)

This thing also has an economic background. I want to refer you, Sir, to the statement made by a former Prime Minister of France in 1945, when I was in Ireland. I was no student, I was a member of the Irish Party. It is called "Anglo-French Control of Africa"; it was published in "Irish Independent" Dublin, on Tuesday, July 3rd, 1945. It was an interview given by M. Reynaud, former Prime Minister of France—The economic background to this test. I want to read this:

"A Western economic bloc including Britain and France and controlling the resources of Africa, was advocated by the former Prime Minister of France, Paul Reynaud, in Paris.

"M. Reynaud in an exclusive interview with Reuter's Paris correspondent, said: 'Between the two economic blocs of the U.S. and Russia, France and Britain have become countries whose economic space is too small for them to prosper independently in a world where mass production has become the supreme law.'



"We must form an economic bloc of the West which will practically control the whole African continent. Inside this bloc conditions of production must be similar and the currencies of the countries included in the bloc must have a fixed relation with each other. A policy must be designed to prevent great differences in production costs between one country and another inside the bloc."

Now, Sir, you have already seen the result of this idea. There is a Common Market now; there is also what you call the Council of Europe, and you have the Council of France. Those of you who read these things (I am not going to bother you but there is a publication here which gives more details about that—it is "the Council of Europe 1952").

And I go further, Sir. I say that it does not only have an economic background; it also has an imperial background. In this respect, Sir, I am going to refer you to what was written by Cecil Rhodes in 1877 in his "Confession of Faith", and this is very very material to us. And then I will lead this House, Sir, to the relation of this atom bomb to the Algerian War and the discovery of iron, gas and oil in the Sahara. It is necessary. This is from a book called "The Vision of Cecil Rhodes". It was published by the Oxford University Press in 1946. Pages 4 to 5: Cecil Rhodes in his 6th Will in his "Confession of Faith", his ambition was stated, but his idea was based on the exposition of Ruskin in Oxford, to inspire the youths of England to go all over the world colonising every territory in order to make Great Britain great. And that is why I am referring to it. Cecil Rhodes then wrote:

"It often strikes a man to enquire what is the chief good in life; to one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, and, as each seizes on his idea, for that he more or less works for the rest of existence. To myself, thinking over the same question, the wish came to render myself useful to my country. I then asked myself how could I, and, after reviewing the various methods, I have felt that at the present day we are actually limiting our children and perhaps bringing into the world half the human beings we might owing to the lack of country for them to inhabit, that if we had retained America there would at the present moment be many millions more of English living. I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that

the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. Just fancy, those parts that are at present inhabited by the most despicable specimen of human beings, what an alteration there would be in them if they were brought under Anglo-Saxon influence. Look again at the extra employment a new country added to our dominions gives. I contend that every acre added to our territory means in the future birth to some more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence.

"The extension of British rule throughout the world, the perfecting of a system of emigration from the United Kingdom and of colonization by British subjects of all lands wherein the means of livelihood are attainable by energy, labour and enterprise, and especially the occupation of British settlers of the entire Continent of Africa."

Now, I am saying this to show that all this had been going on. Although a lot of this had happened with Britain, Britain had come to a point where she found out that by making the many people under her aegis to be free and friendly within a community, she would be happier. That has happened with Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the rest and now we are on the verge, and that has brought goodwill to Great Britain. But what has happened to France? France is fighting a losing battle, but she does not want to yield. France wants to hold tenaciously to the African continent. France would rather destroy the African people than yield graciously as Britain has done, and therefore reap the harvest of the goodwill of those who have been under their tutelage. You can see that is happening in Algeria. I have read this, Sir, to show that since France started the Algerian war she has found it impossible to . . . . .

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order. We are limited by the terms of the Motion, and the Algerian war is outside it.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that this atom bomb test is designed to frighten the Algerians to subjection. Perhaps I might have over-stated it. It would be easier to subjugate them than it has been by the use of conventional weapons. When it was difficult to subjugate the Japanese by dropping the atom bomb on Hiroshima, they gave up. And this is near that area of conflagration.



[MR NDEM]

that in spite of the efforts of the Prime Minister to get the British Government to act the French Government will not stop and this country is still facing what may be described as the most catastrophic incident in its history.

In a recent statement made by the Colonial Secretary in the House of Commons he said that the French Government did give an assurance that there would be no danger to health in the surrounding territories of the Sahara when the atom bomb would be tested.

Well, Sir, this assurance of the French Government is to me meaningless. There is also another aspect of it. The British Government merely passed on to us that assurance without comments. Why?

The question that arises is this what do the British scientists say as regards that assurance given by the French Government? Are they themselves satisfied that the test in the Sahara will cause no damage to health? Do they simply pass it to us without stating the consequences of the act of the French Government on us—the people who are now directly under their charge? Or are they not concerned with our future welfare? Are they not concerned with preserving us as members of the Commonwealth when it is time? Those are the questions that must naturally pass through our minds when we are thinking of this Motion. I would have preferred the British Government to take more positive steps to assure this country of its future safety. But then, Sir, we are told even recently by an august British visitor to this country that necessary precautions will be taken. When we come to talk about the atom bomb test what precautions are there? The only precaution I can think of, and I think the House too, is for France to stop the atom test.

When a similar test was carried out some years ago in the Pacific, some Japanese fishermen, a thousand miles away, were affected by the radio active fall-out. These tests have been described by all scientists throughout the world as very, very dangerous and the effects of this radio active fall-out have been described as something which can go into the human body, affect the cells and cause us to produce monsters. The idea of monsters could be brought home to us if I give you a few examples. A woman can give birth to a child with a very large head and only one leg. There are several

forms of monsters. You can have a child with three heads and no arm at all. That is why we regard this test as extremely dangerous and I am saying in this House that the steps which we have taken so far are commendable.

I admire the vigilance of the Prime Minister who has carried out his promise which he made to this House last February and I, myself, am satisfied that he has done his very best to put the views of this House across. But I am asking that further steps should be taken. We should approach the British Government who have certain obligations to us and ask the British Government to fulfil those obligations. We are still under their charge as a colonial territory, and even when we become independent, we have given indication that we shall remain in the Commonwealth. What would be the benefit of such close association if what concerns us vitally and concerns the future generation of this country will be dismissed by Britain in that light-hearted fashion? The French Government "have assured that there will be no damage to health." I am telling this House, Sir, that it is not a question of damage to health but a question of liquidating Africans from the face of the earth altogether—indeed the extermination of their race. And because of that we are not going to tolerate any precaution. We want definite steps to be taken by Her Majesty's Government to see that this atom bomb test in the Sahara is stopped altogether.

I am not going fully into this Motion because I have myself filed a similar Motion which has not come up yet, and I have to support this, which is not as good as the Motion which I have filed. But all the same I am satisfied that this House is fully aware of the danger there is ahead if this atom bomb test is carried out in the Sahara and I am asking the Prime Minister to take the views of this House very seriously to see that something is done to make the British Government take more positive steps to safeguard the interests not only of this generation but of future generations of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second. (*Applause.*)

*Question proposed.*

**M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai** (South West Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support wholeheartedly the Motion before this House, and in doing so I should like to associate



myself with the sentiments already expressed by my hon. Friend, Jaja Wachuku, the mover, and my Friend, Mr Ndem, the seconder. This Motion Sir is of paramount importance to Nigeria in particular and the whole of West Africa in general. It is asking the House to support fully the actions taken by the Government of the Federation and the Prime Minister in particular in connection with the French proposals to test the atom bomb in the Sahara.

Sir, already, all the political parties in this country, all the newspapers in this country and many associations in this country as well as very many individuals in this country have all registered their protests and have vehemently opposed the idea of the French testing the atom bomb in the Sahara. But it is most regrettable to note that the French Government is determined to carry on with this test despite protests from Nigeria and other West African countries.

I should like, Mr Speaker, to make it abundantly clear on the Floor of this House that we in Nigeria are not opposed to the French Government testing the bomb. After all, two other Western powers, Britain and the United States of America, and also the Soviet Union have all tested their bombs and are in possession of these bombs, and, furthermore, the French, as a foreign power, have every right to test the bomb. But our conjecture is this that the French Government should not come all the way to the Sahara Region to test that bomb. (*Hear, hear*). The French have given an assurance that the testing of this bomb will not harm anybody. Sir, we are not babies, we are not fools and we shall never be fools. No amount of assurance from the French Government will convince us and we shall never accept the fact that the effects of the explosion of atomic bomb are inescapable. (*Applause*). Nobody can convince us, not even the world science headquarters in Los Angeles. If the French Government is absolutely certain that there is no harm in testing this bomb let it do so on the French soil. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, as far as Nigeria is concerned we are still dependent on Britain. We feel that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has a bounden duty to perform. We feel that the British Government should approach the French Government more positively on this matter and to see to it that this atom bomb test

is stopped for ever. Her Majesty's Government should try every medium possible, the United Nations Organisation if necessary, to see that the atom bomb test of the French Government is not carried out. We shall never compromise on this issue. There is no compromise between *yes* and *no*. This is a matter of life and death and we are determined to carry on constitutionally to the last.

Here is a foreign power which is threatening our peace and security and above all which is threatening our very existence. It is not only for the hon. Members of this House, but for the whole country to protest vehemently against this proposal of the French Government. I am confident, Mr Speaker, that our Prime Minister, who is a man of outstanding integrity and great uprightness of character, will continue in future, as in the past, to press Her Majesty's Government to see that the test is abandoned. We fully support the actions taken by the Government and the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Motion. (*Applause*).

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City) : Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to speak on this Motion, I think of all the millions of my fellow countrymen, my honest and humble brothers and sisters, my honest father and mother struggling hard to earn a living not knowing anything about the atom bomb and not even interested to take part in the race to the moon, my fellow countrymen who are struggling to build the nation in a humble but proud manner, so that we may eventually take part in the commity of nations ; and Sir, as I think of these and think of the disaster of the atom bomb explosion which we are mercilessly and unjustifiably subjected to, my blood runs cold, my heart sinks and my hand trembles at the thought of such a possibility. But, Sir, confident as I am, that this hon. Legislature, indeed the population of this great country of ours Nigeria will not fail to give this Motion the response it deserves although our views have been treated with contempt by a power that is struggling hard to catch up with other races in the atom bomb test at all costs, even at our expense and regardless of the fact, Mr Speaker, that our repeated attempts have been dismissed with contemptible reasons I do not hesitate not for a moment to support this Motion wholeheartedly. I feel, Sir, that as I am speaking now I am



[M. MAITAMA SULE]

fulfilling the obligation, the duty which I owe to my electorate, to the nation, to the whole country and indeed mankind.

Sir, when we pass this Motion in this hon. Legislature the integrity of the French nation will be put to a test. Justice and equity will be on trial. The French respect for fair play, respect for other people's point of view, will be tested. Man's inhumanity to man will be either encouraged or discouraged. It will either be allowed to exist or allowed to die out.

When during the last meeting of the House of Representatives the Legislature condemned the proposed atom test by the French authorities in the Sahara little did we realise that the French Authorities would not have any regard for our justifiable fears. In this modern world no nation, no matter how strong that nation may be will be so foolish as to ignore the feelings, disregard the views and dismiss the protest of another nation for after all, Mr Speaker, the age of brutality, the age of savagery, the age of disregard for public opinion and man's inhumanity is out-of-date.

Sir, we may appear to other nations, to the outside world, to be a small country. In fact our achievements in science and technology are too little, we have not yet started to take part in the race to the moon, but our latent power is great. Our resources are immeasurable, our potential strength in years to come will be felt in every corner of the world. Although we have no territorial ambition I will say that our national and territorial integrity should be safe and that our very existence should not be threatened. Only quite recently, Mr Speaker, we heard some leaders of the world crying and supporting co-existence. If these leaders of various Governments of the world are sincere in their declared policy of co-existence in this world certainly they could cry with one voice against the atom bomb test in the Sahara.

Let me explain some facts about this atom bomb test. We have been told by some scientists that those people who will be affected most are people who live 78 to 100 miles away from the centre of the explosion. At the same time people living away as far as 1,000 miles will also be affected. If it is true that people living as far as 1,000 miles will be affected certainly we have every reason to protest

against the Sahara test by the French Authorities. Already they have announced that they are carrying out their test in a place 900 miles away from Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, when this test is carried out, especially in the Sahara desert, that place from which the wind blows to the northern part of Nigeria and the rest of the country during the harmattan, I have no doubt that the radio active fall out will be carried to all of us and we will be dead.

Another point is the fact that when this test is carried out not only will human beings suffer in health but they will also die, plants will also die, the earth will be contaminated thereby making the ground useless for agricultural purposes, in which case there will be no crops, animals will not be there, and human beings will not be there. This is nothing short of declaring war against Nigeria and the rest of the African countries. But, Sir we have done nothing. Why should the French Authorities wage this war against us? I am perfectly sure that all these years we have been on very good terms with the French people. There is no reason why the French should now wage war against us. After all in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation the United States of America and the British have refused them the secrets of atom bomb and they are now trying to show the world that they now know the secrets. We should not suffer for the fault of other people. It is not Nigeria, it is not Ghana, it is not Sierra Leone and it is not any part of West Africa that denied France the secrets of the atom bomb. We are not to blame and I do not see the reason why we should suffer for that.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I received the news, and believe every other Member of this House as well as the entire nation, received the news of the reply given in the House of Commons to the question put by a Labour Member of Parliament that the French authorities have assured the British Government that this test will not be harmful to us. I do not see how we can agree with this. We are not convinced. We are not impressed by the reply that was given and we would like to see something done now, now without any delay. Any delay in this matter will be most disastrous. Any delay will be detrimental to the existence of everybody in Nigeria. After all we have just been told on the Floor of this House that soon the



French Government will be testing the atom bomb, on the 7th of next month. So, gentlemen, go back home and bid your people farewell. (*Applause*). And Mr Speaker, if the British Government does not do anything between now and the 7th of September, goodbye to you, Mr Speaker. Goodbye to everybody else ! For I would also ask other people to carry their bag and baggage and follow me to Mecca.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is very serious indeed and the Colonial Secretary's reply also was not heartening. I thought something more tangible, something bold, something dynamic such as a courageous and bold protest against the French Sahara test would be made. They did not do it. The French reply to the Sardauna of Sokoto was equally disheartening ; it was very bad indeed. And the Head of a Government of the Federation of Nigeria went all the way to France to protest against this test. But what did they do in France but say, "Oh, no, we assure you that there is not going to be any harm to any of your people" ? We do not appreciate this.

All these days since we started to protest against the atomic test in the Sahara, we have been assured by the British and by the French that there will not be any harm to us. But what have the British scientists got to say ? They are in a better position than the French scientists who tell us that this thing will not be harmful—because the French scientists and everybody else in France are bent on carrying out this test, so they can manufacture any reason to support themselves. We expected some information from the British scientists as to whether this test will be harmful or not. Also we have heard independent views from scientists in this country and even in France itself.

Only a couple of days ago I was reading in a newspaper an article written by a French scientist who said that this test would be very harmful to Nigeria and all those people living in the country near the place the test is to be carried out. I would like to say that the news of the reply given by the French Consul-General in Nigeria and the reply given to the hon. Premier of the Northern Region to the many protests made and still being made against the atomic test that is contemplated by the French authorities in the Sahara, came as a

shock. Now that France is determined to carry out this test we can but do one thing. By virtue of being a British dependency and being within the British Commonwealth of Nations we shall be looking to the United Kingdom Government for every protection against aggressors from outside. In this case, we still ask for their protection against these most dangerous and unjustified tests in Sahara because it is not the French Sahara.

The French authorities entitled to their own opinion would say they are taking every precaution against any likely or possible danger that might occur, but we know for certain, for scientists have given us their independent and purely scientific views about the matter, that radio active fall-out will affect millions of people in this country as a result of these tests. Similarly, the radiation from the heat of the explosion will contaminate our soil and render it useless for agricultural purposes. This is nothing short of declaring war against us. The fact that they are carrying out this test 900 miles away from Nigeria does not allay our fears, for if this test is carried out the wind will probably blow the radio-active dust to Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we therefore demand as of right protection from Great Britain, a duty for which they, the British, are wholly and solely responsible. We will continue to protest against these unholy tests until the mother country makes the right move to save us from this menace to which we are mercilessly and unjustifiably subjected. We do not believe that there will be no danger ; we do not accept the assurance given by the French authorities ; we do not feel that we are safe ; we do not share the unwarranted anxiety of the French authorities who are bent on discovering the secrets of the atom bomb at all costs, even at our expense. The persistence on, and the carrying out of these tests, and therefore the disregard of our protests expressing our genuine fears and the deliberate act of the French authorities to wipe our population out merely means an infringement of the fundamental human rights to which France, as a Member of the United Nations Organisation, is a signatory. Under the circumstances, we would ask the United Nations to deal with this ambitious imperialist France accordingly.



[M. MAITAMA SULE]

I do believe that the Government of Great Britain may be also worried as we are but I will never believe that she will shelve this, her responsibility, and just fold her arms and see us suffer at the hands of an imperialist power struggling hard to build or retain an empire in a manner which is long out of date. It is one of the British Prime Ministers that once said: "Although the policy of England is peace, there is no country that is prepared for war like our own. It is not a nation that sets out herself to enter into any conflict; but if the country enters into a conflict and that conflict concerns our own interests, our resources are immeasurable. If she enters into a conflict, that conflict in the real sense of the word will not terminate until justice is done." So let it be in this case. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support. (*Applause*).

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Motion, not with any hope in my mind, that whatever protest we might make here will be heeded by Great Britain, not with any assurance at all that we shall be taken seriously by any part of the European world, but because the only thing we can do now is to protest. There are two things I am certain of, Mr Speaker. The first is that the atom bomb will be exploded. I have no doubt at all in my mind, protest or no protest. Secondly, England shall not do more than pass on our protest. How do you think that France will dare to fix a date for the explosion of the bomb if an understanding had not been reached by the British Cabinet and by France. What is France trying to prove? Nothing! That she can explode the atom bomb? It was exploded long ago. That she has it? Who cares whether she has it or not? England now has a stock pile, Russia has, America has. What does De Gaulle want? To prove that he is still the tiger of France; a tiger now toothless trying to grow milk teeth or put on false teeth! To frighten whom? Frighten Russia? France is just being arrogant at this moment of her history. I do not think there are any peoples on earth that France will threaten to frighten other than ourselves.

The European nations always have contempt for other Nations. Russia had contempt for Japan until she was taught a lesson by Japan. The whole world had a contempt for China until China had risen to where she is to-day. I can assure you that even Russia was held in

contempt by the Western powers after the 1914-18 war, until she grew to where she is to-day. I have often said that the only strength we can rely upon eventually on any matter outside our territory is our own strength which we have not got now. It does not matter, but let France take care, if she explodes the atom bomb let her do it thoroughly so that not one Nigerian lives after the explosion. (*Applause*). Let her citizens make sure, if that atomic bomb is exploded, let her make sure that West Africa is wiped out. Of one thing I am certain, gentlemen, whether France likes it or not she is on the down-grade. She is a third-class power, she will be a fourth-class power. We are up and coming, we are rising and somewhere, gentlemen, on her path down and on our path up we shall meet France. I have no doubt about that. Of that one thing I am certain, we will meet them.

This is the opportunity we have been looking for, to show that black men all over Africa must stand or fall together. I have said it often and often in this House, that *blackism* is the answer to our problems. There are only two alternatives left to us: either *blackism* or Commonwealth we have been fooled enough. We had British reprisals in Kenya, we protested but what happened? People were locked up in prison without trial; people were brutally beaten to death in prison. What reaction can we get other than what happened in Kenya? Britain believes the African has got a very short memory he has forgotten. He is playing around. The Devlin Report came out. These black people will forget again. The Report was turned aside with contempt. The Report of persons of the greatest integrity from Great Britain was turned aside with contempt, rejected by Britain! Now, we shall know in our heart of hearts whether we believe in the Commonwealth or whether we have to resort to the only ultimate answer to our problems: *blackism*.

The Pan-African movement has started, nothing will stop it; we are being welded together—more and more together in spite of the pessimistic views of political observers all over the world. What do they say? These African peoples will never come together. They have no common interests—that was what the British and American observers said. Tubman has nothing in common with Balewa; Balewa has nothing in common with Nkrumah. But we all have one thing in common—we have the



preservation of our lives in common. Let us not fool ourselves. I know for certain that even the areas now within the French community that France boasts of are with us—France says that these people are Africans as well, that they are independent states and that they have agreed to this atom bomb being exploded. Mr Speaker, we agree they are nearer to this atom bomb than ourselves. Are you telling me, Sir, that anybody with any sense whatever will laugh and dance when he knows that the atom bomb will be exploded at his doorstep? And yet De Gaulle has the guts to tell us that these are African “free States”! How free are these people? We all know how France got her “oui” vote from the Colonies. It is true but nobody would have dared say it except from the Floor of this House. I say it now, that we all know that the army was brought out in the French territories and I challenge the French authorities or anybody who will give me an answer that that was not so. The French army was brought out to compel the French colonials to “oui, oui” and they did. Wouldn’t you? Any French citizen in Africa who had no feeling to “oui, oui” had to stay at home. We certainly are not going to “oui, oui” here. We see what happened to Guinea. France was so over-joyed when Guinea opted out of the Community, that she threatened to withdraw all their administrative staff from Guinea. If they were so happy at Guinea’s independence, why did they do that? This shows one thing, we have people who think like ourselves within the French Community. People within the French Community who are still looking for freedom.

I think this is the moment we have to think when we get our independence, whether we are going to align ourselves with the African States who are now planning the Pan-African movement. We have no alternative. I am saying that, at this stage of our history, let us make one more trial. The Prime Minister believes in constitutional methods, so do I. This House believes in it, so do I. Let England receive our protests, the joint protest of each representative of the people in this House. This is a test of the future, our lives are at stake. If England had been in danger, we know how we would stand with her. We knew what efforts we made during the last war because we realised that the danger to England is danger to Nigeria. Nigeria enlisted *en masse* not because we love fighting but to stand by England. England too must

realise that a danger to Nigeria is a danger to future Commonwealth relations.

I suggest that the protest to be sent this time must be worded in the most serious and certain terms. England can even withdraw independence next year if she wants. Speaking for myself I am prepared that, if England says there is no independence in October, let her keep our independence. We shall fight for it. Many have fought for it before. We are not going to prostrate ourselves and become servile just because we have been promised independence on a platter of gold. This is not the time for soft speaking. This is the time to ask England to decide whether our future is Commonwealth or *blackism*.

Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to enter the debate at this stage and to say, Sir, that the Government is one and the same with hon. Members of this House as regards this matter. (*Loud applause*).

Sir, this matter was discussed last February in this House. I gave an undertaking that I would send our representation to the United Kingdom so that the French authorities would be informed of our apprehensions. The Governor-General sent two despatches to the United Kingdom. We did not have enough information on the real intentions of the French in the testing of the atom bomb in the Sahara. We were informed by the United Kingdom that this matter was taken up both at the official and the ministerial level with the French authorities. But I must say, Sir, that we are still not satisfied and we will continue in every constitutional way to insist on the United Kingdom making representations on our behalf, (*Applause*), because we feel that this is really a serious matter.

I, myself, Sir, received many resolutions from different organisations in the country protesting against this test and I can remember not long ago I also received a demonstration of people who were really very very afraid that this test would bring a lot of harm to the people of Nigeria. Sir, in order to assist the House to know some of the information which we received from the United Kingdom—and I am not saying that, by giving these facts, I am trying to say that we do not regard the thing as serious—I am just giving the information for the interest of the House and for the country



[THE PRIME MINISTER]

as a whole—according to the information we received, the French atomic test in the Sahara is unlikely to cause very serious harm. Also, we are informed that it is the intention of the French to make a similar bomb test like the one of the United States and the United Kingdom. The American test, I understand, was carried out in Nevada, 100 miles from Las Vegas, and 250 miles from Los Angeles. The British test is similar to the test which the French intend to carry out, and this was carried out in Australia about 350 miles from one city.

Now, we are not in possession of the details of where the French intend to carry out the test in the Sahara, but we are told, Sir, that they intend to carry it out somewhere about 900 miles away from the Nigerian border. Now if that is so the site for the French Test would be nearer to Spain and Portugal than it is nearer to Nigeria. (*Several hon. Members: What of the wind?*) But because of the wind we feel that it is still very dangerous to carry out the test. (*Applause*).

The hon. mover of the Motion, Sir, and Mallam Maitama Sule mentioned that the French are intending to carry out this test on the 7th of September. Well, I am very sorry to say that we are not in possession of this information yet. I really want to assure the House that we in the Federal Government will continue in our efforts to see that the test is not carried out. (*Applause*.) If, as my hon. Friend Mr Kayode said, whatever we do the French will explode the atom bomb, I must say that the Federal Government must seek the assistance of the British Government to make arrangements by which, once the test is carried out, we should be able immediately to know whether there will be harmful effects to Nigeria. (*Prolonged interruption.*) *Hon. Members: After we are dead?* I want hon. Members to be realistic in this matter. When you die you die only after every assistance has failed, it is not good for you just to agree to die without kicking. In case the bomb is exploded it will be foolish on our side if we do nothing to find out whether the results of it will be harmful or not. So far we have been told that there will be no harmful effect and we do not agree with it. (*Hear, hear.*) Therefore if the bomb is tested we must be in a position to know whether it is harmful and prepare for it. ....

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** We do not want any test.

**The Prime Minister:** That is exactly what I am saying. We do not want any test to be carried out at all. (*Applause*) But I want hon. Members to understand that we go by certain ways in our dealings with other countries. Nigeria is not independent. Our foreign policy, our dealings with outside countries are conducted on our behalf by the United Kingdom. All that we can do is to protest in the strongest terms possible to the Government of the United Kingdom, and this is what we are doing and will continue to do. (*Hear, hear.*) The Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs was here only a few days ago, and I took the opportunity to speak to him on the fears of Nigeria in the clearest way that he could understand, and I hope that he will convey these fears to his Colleagues in the United Kingdom.

Once again, Sir, I want to assure the House that Government is fully aware of the justification of the fears of the people of Nigeria about this test and that we will continue to make our protest to the United Kingdom. We hope that the French, if they have any regard for the people of Nigeria, will stop from going ahead. Sir, I beg to support (*Applause*).

*Sitting suspended: 11.35 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed: 11.55 a.m.*

**Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion which has been ably moved by my Friend and compatriot, Mr Jaja Anucha Wachuku and which has been supported very ably by a number of hon. Members.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is really very difficult and embarrassing for some of us in this House to stand and speak the way we would like to on this Motion, bearing in mind that, you, Mr Speaker, are presiding over this House. Personally, I feel very much embarrassed, and I hope that any comments I might make will be understood to be from the best of intentions. I speak from my own mind.

There has been a lot of saying from some Members that there is the intention on the part of France to wipe out the entire African race



or the entire African Continent. I share this view partly, and I only want to add that I do not think it is designed by France alone to wipe out the African Continent. I think there is a conspiracy by France and the United Kingdom to wipe out the African Continent. (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, if I am wrong, the only thing that can emerge from my speech is a bold and positive approach on the part of the United Kingdom to make it impossible for France to carry out the test. If that happens, I will not even regret my statement because I shall have succeeded in getting these people to come and to be one with us in our opposition to the French design. I do not want to make that a mere empty allegation. I want to support it, Mr Speaker, by making first of all a reference to a publication. "The Passing of the Great Race" by Madison Grant.

Mr Speaker, this book was published as far back as 1924 and I just want to read out a little of it to show you that some of us who have heard so much about the abolition of the slave trade and most of the missionaries who sponsored it, and most of us in the African continent who were essentially godly people who have supported the idea of the abolition of the slave trade, will be very much surprised to hear that there are a number of white people who are opposed up to this day to the abolition of slave trade because they feel that that was a mistake, because by abolishing the slave trade, opportunity had been given to the black people to continue to multiply instead of decreasing in their numbers. I will read this very short portion. It is found on pages 79-80 of this book, "The Passing of the Great Race" by Madison Grant.

"In Africa south of the Sahara the density of the native population will prevent the establishment of any purely white communities except at the southern extremity of the continent and possibly on portions of the plateaux of Eastern Africa. The stoppage of famines and wars and the abolition of the slave trade, while dictated by the noblest impulses of humanity, are suicidal to the white man. Upon the removal of these natural checks, negroes multiply so rapidly that there will not be standing room on the continent for white men unless per chance the lethal sleeping-sickness which attacks the natives far more frequently than the whites,

should run its course unchecked. In South Africa a community of mixed Dutch and English extraction is developing. Here the only difference is one of language. . . . The English and the Dutch will merge in a common type just as they have in the past 200 years in the colony and state of New York. They must stand together if they are to maintain any part of Africa as a white man's country because they are confronted with the menace of an enormous black Bantu population which will drive out the whites unless the problem is bravely faced."

Now, Sir, this is the House of Representatives and all of us realise that we are not here as individuals giving public lectures. The Motion before this House is a Motion on which any one Member can speak for three hours without necessarily exhausting his materials, but we realise how short our time is and we only mention some of the important things that we wish to say. I have stated categorically, and without apologies, that it is no use attacking De Gaulle. I will only use the name De Gaulle for what we are doing to-day. In the past some of us have attacked imperialism, and our definition of imperialism is something like capitalism-gone-mad. To-day what we are fighting is a new mania. It is something like imperialism-gone-mad and no more capitalism-gone-mad—and that is De-Gaullism.

Before I continue, Sir, I would like every Member of this House to examine this very closely. I have cut down my beard and have cut down my hair to make sure that I am not mistaken for anything which I am not. But, Sir, there is one very clear analogy. If you are being chased by a madman with an axe, and you know he is after your life and you are running for safety, it is common knowledge, and it is only natural, that you run into a compound where you feel you will be secure. (*Hear, hear.*) In other words, it is very necessary for anyone who calls himself a friend and who sees you are being chased by a madman with an axe to throw his doors wide open to you to enter, otherwise by force of natural circumstances you will run into any compound. Also at this moment I am not advocating that this country should either turn left or right. We shall continue to go forward, but while we are marching forward anybody who meets us must be prepared. . . . (*Several hon. Members:*



[DR AUDUCHE]

of monsters. Not only that, it will cause unintelligent demented offsprings. You cannot escape these effects and anyone who says these effects of explosion will be such that it will not have any dangerous effect is telling absolute lies and what he is saying is absolutely misinformed and mischievous.

We do not have to go to the laboratory to demonstrate that the atom bomb is in fact a destructive weapon; and the other danger that arises from the explosion of such a bomb in the Sahara is that the Sahara is a sea of sand and if the bomb were exploded on a rock it would probably blast the rock and the effect of that would be absorbed to a greater or less extent by the hardness of the material. But in the case of the Sahara it is loose sand and the effect is that it will be blown towards us and so life in the South of the Sahara and North of the Equator will stand in great danger and jeopardy. Well, I have given these facts to show that it is not true that an explosion in the Sahara will not cause harm to life in this part of the world.

Sir, we are not alone in protesting against this nefarious thing. The three Independent West African Countries—the Prime Ministers of these countries met sometime ago in Liberia and passed a resolution protesting against this explosion in the Sahara, and last week there was a meeting of the nine Independent States in Monrovia again unanimously protesting against this mad rush by France, as she claims, to regain her military power. Also we heard, too, that there was a meeting of Ministers of the French community in Madagascar sometime ago. It was given out to us that all members of the French community agreed to this test being carried out. Well, unfortunately, I will say that might not be very true.

Sources close to the area indicate that the Prime Ministers from the West African Territories who attended the Conference opposed the explosion of the atom bomb in the Sahara but that the Ministers from France and the Prime Minister of Madagascar favoured it and eventually they sort of steam-rolled the whole thing and I have every reason to believe that there are still protests in the French African Territories—I do not want to mention any particular country. I think all of them are against this test being carried out and I will say that if France pushes ahead with this test it

might cause serious repercussion and dismemberment of the French community (*Hear, hear*). This plot to carry out this test is one we are at one in protesting against. This is above party politics. It is not a matter which one can play politics with or try to cash in. We are all at one in this House in protesting vehemently against this test being carried out.

Last time on the 24th of February to be precise, a Motion was tabled by Mr Ndem and I remember supporting it. And after the Prime Minister had made a statement assuring us that the Government would take up the matter that Motion was withdrawn. Well, I am inclined to feel that the United Kingdom did not get the voice of this House since the Motion was withdrawn, and I am hoping that this Motion having passed through this House the United Kingdom Government will be in a better position to make a concrete and substantial recommendation to the French Government, that this test be barred.

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

**M. Nuhu Bamalli** (Central Zaria): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of this Motion. We have already been enlightened by various speakers about the indifferent attitude taken by the British Government in this matter. We as a nation have made our case very clear to Britain and that is we want Britain to ask France to desist from carrying out this notorious test. The only thing I think I will suggest to this House is for our Prime Minister, as soon as this session ends, to lead a very strong Nigerian delegation to Britain (*Hear, hear*), to see the British Government and see the Queen and make our protests personally to them. Our protest is not only against the carrying out of the test but also against the attitude of Britain to most important dependency to-day, and an integral part of Commonwealth tomorrow. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is really very disappointing for Britain to back up France against us and I will ask the Prime Minister to make time to go to Britain soon after this session. This is a very serious matter.

I will join in the sentiments expressed by the former speaker here that that gentleman called the French Consul in Nigeria (*Interruption*).

**An hon. Member**: He is not a gentleman.



House of Representatives Debates

1745 [Atom Bomb Test in the Sahara] 11 AUGUST 1959 [Atom Bomb Test in the Sahara] 1746

**M. Nuhu Bamalli** : I withdraw the word gentleman; that man should be withdrawn from Nigeria. The Government should ask France to withdraw him and let him leave the country immediately and furthermore, Sir, if France insists on carrying out this test this Government should break off all diplomatic relations with France (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion without reservation. I have listened to the statement of the Prime Minister of the Federation and the statement is very welcome in a way. But there is one point in that statement which made me tremble a little. His statement that the explosion of the bomb will be detrimental to this country is welcome, but when he said "if it is proved"; who will prove? Who are the scientists we have to prove? Where are the provers to prove? We do not want any prove. It is certainly detrimental to explode the atom bomb in the Sahara, and this reminds us of the past humiliation which our forefathers went through.

The Berlin Conference of 1888, where powers scrambled to dismember Africa, each taking his own good share. The population of Nigeria would have been more than 35 million to-day, but what happened? The slave trade depopulated this country. Thousands, millions of them were carried away and sold into slavery. Some authorities estimate that more than 20 million Africans perished in the process of that iniquitous trade. And if there is any history remaining in Nigeria it is within the Sahara, that Hausa State, Songhai State. . . . (*Interruption*). But what do we now find on the eve of our self government? France wants to test an atomic bomb in the Sahara. This is another humiliation. When you have a child you pray to God that the humiliation which you pass through would never descend on him. But to-day we are being threatened by the French people and we are asked to wait. No Sir. This Government must lead now, now! now. Do not allow the people to lead. "How can man die better than facing fearful odds for the ashes of his fathers and the temples of his Gods" . . . . .

Mr Speaker, Sir, the statement of the Prime Ministers of West Africa—the hon. Dr Nkruma, M. Toure and the President of Liberia Turbman have emphasised their regret that France should ever think of the atom bomb test in Sahara. We must strengthen that declaration

by this Motion. Mr Prime Minister, this is your brightest hour. It is in your life time that you are made the Prime Minister of the Federation by the Grace of God. The people support you. Your voice must ring act now. (*Prolonged applause*). I know you are humble by nature; you are unassuming by nature but the country wants you now to act.

Yes, Mr Speaker, I tremble and I ask the Prime Minister immediately this House rises to take steps to convey to the Premiers of the Regions the feelings of this House and that the Prime Minister accompanied by some of his Ministers and those he may like to choose to go to the United Kingdom and register our protest fully. It is now necessary to speak the language which the world will understand and that support either directly or indirectly to France or encouragement to France to test the atom bomb should be withdrawn. This is the declared warning of the people of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have never spoken in this vein since you had the distinction to take the Chair, but we feel very much humiliated and are being made a laughing stock at a time we are trying to change the history. This is the biggest problem that has ever confronted us and we cannot escape the fact that it is a very big challenge. We must tell Great Britain that there is no need giving us independence in one hand and in another to reduce the power.

We must give support to the steps taken by the other West African States in this matter. We welcome them and we associate ourselves with whatever move they have made. And whatever may be the internal situation in Ghana—I have not studied it—but I will say to-day that that lone star Dr Nkrumah is doing his very best. I have no prejudices, whatever people can think, whatever people say, when history is written it will be written; your prejudices cannot stop it.

If by negotiation we shall resolve the situation we shall negotiate. If by all peaceful and constitutional channels we can resolve it, let us resolve it. But if after all your efforts have failed to materialise rather than explode that and tell us that because there are no bombers, no aeroplanes therefore we shall stay and



[DR MBADIWE]

sentence generations unborn to the same humiliation that our fathers have seen, let us go forward and commit whatever there is to commit. (*Applause*).

There is one other matter. I say to the Prime Minister and Members of the Cabinet this is the biggest challenge we have ever been called to witness, and we can only pray for the guidance of God in this delicate matter. We are confident that you go with our fullest mandate, but the Government must deal with this matter so that the people will not bet out of hand because their feelings over this matter of humiliation are great. What is life after all? We are sure we will die one day but why die in such an inglorious mood, to say we lived and begged than to say 'away with it' and by trusting in God who knows when the Commonwealth our allies will come.

I am not going as far as Churchill went during the dark days in Great Britain when he said: "If to ally with the devil will save Great Britain I will ally with the devil to save Great Britain". I am not going that far now. (*Applause*).

Let me close by that famous Isaih Chapter 62, verse 1, "For Sion's sake I will not hold my peace and for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest till her just one come forth as brightness, her saviour be lighted as a lamp."

We shall not rest, we shall not sleep until the collective weight of this country in association with other Commonwealth countries backs England to speak because England needs backing. We are now backing England to-day. What we are doing is backing. Other Commonwealth countries are also backing her. With a combined voice the British lion should speak as she has spoken before—the battle of Waterloo, the battle of Agincourt. (*Applause*).

**The Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, what we in this House are saying, Sir, is not that France should stop atomic tests. She is at freedom to carry on the tests provided this is done on French soil. What has provoked our ire is that France is going to test nuclear weapons in the Sahara—on African soil. Nigeria being a part of Africa, Sir, we cannot afford to be idle onlookers whilst experiments are carried out which will, ultimately, result in harm—great harm—to ourselves and future generations of the children of Africa.

Sir, we are told not to bother, that the proposed tests are not of the harmful type. How can France determine the effects of a test that has never been carried out? All such talk, Sir, is a big hoax and falsehood. All scientists, including the very people who helped in the making and who invented the atomic bomb, are agreed, Sir, that the aftermath of nuclear bombs and devices are harmful—exceedingly so to humanity. The only disagreement is the extent of harm of atomic radiation. This, Sir, is the only quarrel among the experts of the nuclear age. This being so, it is mass deceit, Sir, for the French to tell us that the tests are being carried out in the Reggan region of the Sahara, which is alleged to be too far removed from Nigeria for us to suffer any consequences. Reggan is about 900 miles from the borders of Northern Nigeria.

But, Sir, it is on record that when the Americans tested their bomb on the pacific atoll of Bikini, a fisherman 1,200 miles away in Japan was showered with atomic dust. He subsequently died from radiation effects. This, Sir, is a fact of history and we cannot escape this fact.

What are the effects of atomic radiation? This, Sir: crops will become radio-active; those who eat them—animals and human beings—will die. It will bring about mutation of genes. This means that our future generation will be impotent or deformed. For all these reasons, Sir, we are alarmed and are entitled rightly, to be concerned. The French say that in any case, the bomb tests are a "Community Affair". That is to say, Sir, that approval of the tests was given by the French Community—the leaders of which met a few months ago at Madagascar. About six Premiers of Federal African Republics participated in the Madagascar talks and gave approval of the bomb test proposals. On this basis, the French say that it is no business of ours to poke our nose into the affairs of the Community.

But we say that the French Community in Africa is an anomaly. French Africa, like Guinea, will be truly free in due course. Those who have no freedom—true independence—cannot speak for Africa. And we, Sir, who are on the verge of independence are the only people who can join the tune of those independent races in Africa to speak for the



true African to denounce this atrocious act being made by the General of France. He is a General, nobody doubts that. But with all the war and army forces in him and the bloodshed he will be able to create such a situation that is now causing the greatest worry to all mankind! If France actually believes that these weapons, as my friend the hon. Jaja Wachuku has said, are not dangerous and inimical to human beings and their lives, let them test them in France.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let us remember this very simple fact that the Sahara Desert is not the only desert in the world. There are deserts in America, in Europe and even in Australia. If the leader of the Government of France believes that these tests are not dangerous to human beings let them test in the American desert and see if America will not reply.

The Churches have unanimously protested to the Prime Minister that the tests are dangerous and that everything possible should be done to prevent the test in the Sahara Desert.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in agreement with all those who said that if Great Britain will let us down in this very crucial moment we shall come back before this House is dissolved to table a substantive motion in this very House and to decide where to go this year. We shall decide where to go, whether to remain in the Commonwealth or whether to stay out and to choose our own destiny.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**M. Jalo Waziri (Gombe):** With your permission, Mr Speaker, I wish in the first instance to thank the mover of this Motion of such an important if not serious problem, and in doing so I wish to make a few points.

The first point is that no nuclear device even if the explosive capacity is like that of Hiroshima is of any good to mankind. All scientists have agreed that no atomic bomb is a clean bomb. It is doubtless to say that all nuclear devices are harmful to mankind. It is in this context that I view the Sahara test. If the French test their bomb as proposed in the Sahara Desert we in Nigeria cannot ultimately escape the ill effect of atomic radiation, no matter how small. This is why we are greatly opposed to any nuclear test in the Sahara.

The French propose to test their bomb in the Regan area of the Sahara Desert, a distance of 900 miles from Nigeria. With a strong North-East wind we in Nigeria cannot escape the disastrous consequences of atomic radiation. In particular many people will suffer from the effect of atomic fall-out. What is more important, it will affect human beings who eat the animals and plants which are saturated with atomic particles. This will lead to mutation and the result is that we will produce in the coming generations what is known as freaks of nature, instead of normal healthy human beings.

I presume, Sir, you have heard of a terrible disease known as 'Leukaemia'. It is a form-wrecking, blood-sucking disease for which there is no known cure. It results from atomic radiation. This, Sir, will be one of the terrible consequences we will have to suffer as an aftermath to the Sahara disturbance which is proposed by the French.

One puzzling thing is that the French are testing their bomb at a time when all the big powers are examining proposals to end nuclear tests because they recognise the danger of such tests to humanity. There is much talk in the world about "atoms for peace", not for the extinction of human beings.

No amount of Argument will convince us that Africa will not suffer as a result of these tests.

My last point is that nobody minds very much if France decides to join the nuclear club. I insist that she should not become a power thriving on the skeleton of the African children. For these reasons I pray the Prime Minister to do his duty and I honestly request him in the interest of this country's security to fly immediately to the United Kingdom and see the Colonial Secretary.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun East):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that if this motion is given the greater part of to-day it will be a clear indication of the feelings of the people of this country on this most important question. After all, when you look at the Order Paper here you find some other motions such as 'Agreements between the Nigerian National Lines and the Conference Line,' 'Use of Diesel Oil by the Electricity Corporation and the Railway Corporation,' and 'Import Duties on Motor Accessories.' There is not any of these things that you can collect if you are not alive.



[CHIEF BALOGUN]

Those who put this motion first on the Order Paper have done a good service to this country. I ask this question: What is France going to gain by continuing with this proposal after the voluminous amount of protests that came forward from other parts of Africa. I think that if it were a question of the economy of France being involved in this matter, if someone was trying to deprive France of one of her colonies, or her business or trade interests, if a French national was being deprived of his liberty in any part of the world and France puts her foot down and says, this is what we are going to do, it will be understood.

As has been said by many Members of this House, there is the feeling that when it comes to African people European powers have no respect whatever for our feelings. It is a great pity to notice once again that people's interests differ and people's priority differ a great deal, otherwise I would have thought that our interest in this matter and that of Great Britain would be one and the same. Many Members have read in the papers that the British Minister who spoke in the House of Commons merely said that our protest had been passed on without any comment whatever. I should have thought that Britain as the protective power and Britain as the mouthpiece for Nigeria in international affairs should have spoken vigorously on our behalf. The fact that Britain spoke vigorously for us would not mean that Britain is antagonistic to France. I think that would have earned Great Britain our gratitude a great deal.

It will be a great pity if on the eve of independence the impression is given that even when we do get independence we shall have to fend for ourselves. There is no doubt that every state has to fend for itself. There is no doubt that even when we do get independence our interests and those of Britain must clash, but I think at this moment Britain has a duty to us. I think that duty is to put forward our claims to France in as favourable a manner as possible.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun East):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not taking much time this afternoon except to point out what has been said by some of the other Members who spoke earlier on in this House that France really

has not got much to lose by taking this explosion somewhere else other than the Sahara. On the other hand we have got a great deal to lose by this test taking place in this area in Africa which is so close to our own territory here. It is disregard of human feeling on matters of this nature that brings about the amount of misunderstanding which exists in the world to-day.

For example, if one can quote a recent incident, when the neighbouring state, Ghana, protested to France on this matter France more or less received the protest with discourtesy and I think the next thing that Ghana did was to recognise the provisional Government in Algeria. It is true that we here in Nigeria cannot retaliate if any injury is done to us, but at the same time it should be noted that in the affairs of nations one year is a very short time indeed. Nigeria is catching up with other countries in terms of Sovereignty next year and if people sow seeds of discord then they have themselves to blame if we react in the most violent manner towards them when we come of age.

I want to reiterate the fact that France has got nothing whatever to lose by taking this test away from her own territory. Some people who do not object much to this test have said that there is not going to be much injury. I want to say this, that even the apprehension that has been expressed by all the independent African States, by our own leaders in Nigeria, by every person who has given this matter a thought, even all that apprehension is enough to let the authorities in France know that if they are interested in the goodwill of those of us on this side of the world, then they must heed these fears which we have expressed. It is a great pity that other African countries that are connected with France do not follow the same course of duty. We do not propose to blame them, if what they call independence or self-government is what they have demonstrated in this question of atomic test on their own territory which are now referred to as the so called independent French states in different parts of Africa to-day, if that is the nature of their independence then some of us will merely laugh because it appears that some of them are not quite as independent as some of the Local Councils here in Nigeria. The fact the biggest test of their independence was whether they could allow atomic test to



take place on their own territory because the people who are mostly concerned are the Africans who are in what have been called the French Community. Those are the people who ought to know that a great deal of damage will be done to the people and to posterity. These people met in Madagascar the other day and we are told—we do not know how to take newspaper reports seriously—but we are told that these people endorsed the desire of France to test the atom bomb. If they did it we should hear their voice, but I do not know whether they have no voice whatever or whether they cannot even make mild protests to their own government.

Here in Nigeria there are several times when the British have done what we do not like and we say so. We say to them that we do not think that this is in our own best interest. We have said so many times and it has not strained relationship between us and Great Britain. That is how relationship between human beings should be otherwise it would be a relationship between human beings and serfs; but we do not cherish that type of attitude in Nigeria here. It may be that the two systems are different, that the French Colonial system is different from the British Colonial system. All the same, I think that the French are supposed to be following in the path of enlightened colonial policy. And if that is the evidence they have for it, then I think there is a great deal of ground to cover in the future. Whatever the case may be we protest. If the African members of the French community are not able to see this danger right at their doorsteps then we here who can see clearly have a duty to save them, even in spite of themselves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said I do not propose to speak too long on this but the matter cannot be too much emphasised. It is not only an insult that in the twentieth century such a callous show of power politics should be done, because it is not much more than that. I do not say that France does not need the Atom Bomb, but if really she needs it, it is only symbolic, because France is supposed to be in the N.A.T.O. set-up and in any case, we know now that one country cannot just think of defending herself irrespective of other arrangements. The point is this, that if France wants to show big she must develop all sorts of weapons. We are not to be made the guinea

pigs for experiment that is going on. It takes only a Standard six boy to know what everybody has said, that this thing is dangerous indeed.

Mr Speaker, with these brief remarks, I want to say that we who have been speaking after the Prime Minister spoke are doing so mainly to support the steps that have been taken by the Prime Minister and the Government. We are all in accord with what has been done. We know the constitutional position. We cannot go forward now, and say that this should not be done. But we have right to protest. Even in France herself—the other day we read in the papers that France was making what amounted to a threat, that if the United States gave support to the Algerians' claim for independence in the United Nations, they were going to set up certain fire-works and all that. That was said by General de Gaulle. If France is entitled to say that type of thing, how much more we the people who are connected with this life and death issue. I think that whatever support we give to the Prime Minister in this matter would go to show the intensity of feelings in this country.

Mr Speaker, with this brief remark I support the Motion.

**Mr L. C. Daldry** (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall be here if and when this Bomb is tested, so I am just as much concerned as anybody else. (*Laughter*). Earlier in this debate the hon. Agwuna intimated he thought that the test, if it takes place, will be one in which Britain is joining in an endeavour to exterminate the African race. I was very shocked to hear such an opinion expressed and while I share the fears which have been ventilated I believe with all my heart that my country, Britain, would never never take any such action (*Hear, hear*). To put the argument at the lowest possible level, only yesterday here we were talking of Britain making a loan of £15 million to Nigeria. Is it likely that Britain will lend £15 million to Nigeria and the next day turn round and try to destroy the race which has to pay it back?

Sir, the world is in a very serious state and life is in any case very short. It is up to an individual who cannot do very much about it, not to continue blindly but to put his faith somewhere. I shall be here if this bomb is tested and I am pinning my faith utterly and completely upon Great Britain.



[MR DALDRY]

Who knows what lies behind the calm answer which has been given by Britain in regard to this matter up to the present? Diplomatic matters are not shouted from the House tops and we do not know what is going on behind the scenes. Is it fair to assume, as some have assumed in this debate, that British scientists who must after all know more about this than the French, are not making their own assessment? I shall be here, but I am completely without any personal fear in this matter. I am certain that Britain will not desert me and will not desert Nigeria (*Hear, hear*). If there is danger to us, the test will not take place and if the test does take place, I am sure that Britain will first have assured herself that we will be unharmed.

But, Sir, in debating this matter which concerns us all in Nigeria, I hope we will not allow our emotions to run wild or allow this debate to degenerate into a question of Black and White. Sir, we are all one human race and the pigment of our skin matters not at all (*Loud applause*). Under Britain's protection, Sir, I am sure that we have nothing whatever to fear.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity to support the measure already taken by the Government and to add my voice to the expressions of feelings that have been voiced in this Chamber on behalf of the people of Nigeria.

Nigeria has spoken. To those who do not understand us they might think that because our feeling lies very much near the surface it does not go down. It goes deep down. I once had to tell some of my English friends, you know in your books that—that is in your children's books in times past; I think it is changing now—you often picture the African with a very wide mouth. I said he needs a very wide mouth because he is so joyous inside him that he wants a big mouth to laugh with. In any case our climate is such that it does not shut us in. It encourages us to expand, hence our voluminous clothes wherever we go. So let nobody be taken in by the feelings expressed in this House. It is not shallow: it goes deep enough. But at the same time the African knows his friends. The African is not ungenerous. The African

may be a chivalrous enemy ready to forget wrongs, but also he feels very strongly when he is hurt, especially by those from whom he expects quite a lot.

I think it is the first time that I have heard hard feelings expressed against France. France we have come to know through Britain and we know how highly France stands in the estimation of the British people. France in their opinion stands for culture, and even when they were lying prostrate under the heels of the German aggressors, Sir Winston Churchill did not fail to cheer and encourage them—"France one day shall rise again",—and we believe that France is a country of culture for many generations and that is why feelings run very high when a nation so highly cultured would not listen, or at any rate apparently not listening, to the voice not only of millions but also of her own closest friends who have stood by her in her darkest hour.

I do not believe that she can remain adamant for so long. We too in Africa are not the first to start this war of white and black, in fact we abhor it. In our own country we would not have it, whether it is discriminating against white or black or even against tribe. We shout against it. We should not allow this thing to blur our vision. We are fighting against one particular evil. If France wants to explode their atom bomb at our backyard we would fight with all that we have got.

It does not matter whether it is little or whether it is much. But that must not be construed to be a battle of white against black. For, after all, we are now living in a world that has become one world and the black man and the white man are now next door neighbours. If not, why should we be bothered here about what France is doing and what she chooses to call her own territory except that what she does affects us? And that is what we are calling upon France to recognise and I am quite sure that we are not alone in our cry. That is where I would call upon my own countrymen here not to allow your feelings to run too high so that we lose the perspective. It is France and her atomic bomb in the Sahara.

I feel quite sure and I think I would go so far as to agree with Mr Daldry on this. As you



*House of Representatives Debates*

1757 [*Atom Bomb Test in the Sahara*] 11 AUGUST 1959 [*Atom Bomb Test in the Sahara*] 1758

know the English people are phlegmatic. They do not usually give expression to their feelings. In fact we are learning diplomacy from them. They say they are passing it on and are not supporting. I cannot believe that they are not supporting because it is in their best interest to do so. So I would ask you to pin your faith upon that, but that does not mean you should not make your feelings heard in every way you know. And that is where I would make one concrete suggestion to the Prime Minister. It is not enough merely to send resolutions to Great Britain. I would humbly ask, Sir, that everything said here against the explosion of the Atomic bomb in the Sahara should be sent to every member nation of the United Nations so that when British makes a protest these people will already have understood the feelings of West African peoples on this issue.

Sir, I would go so far again to say that in this appeal, remember we are appealing to other nations. Some of them are black, some of them are white, but some of them are neither black nor white. What we should do then is not our agony of anticipated destruction to hit blindly in the dark. Let us continue to believe in the goodwill of Great Britain and the other nations until the contrary has been proved. After all, one thing we have learned from the British is that the accused should not be adjudged guilty until he has been proved guilty. That is more than I can say about the French. I have passed through their territory several times, I am glad to say as yet unscathed. But I have witnessed things which would not bear the light of day in the British territory, and that is why I differed when hon. Kola Balogun was talking about what we are saying here in Nigeria and what other people are saying.

I have seen two people quarrelling next door to our territory here. Two people were fighting there. What happened? The African gendarme, the equivalent of our policeman, lined these people up and a French official, a white man, said, "What is the matter?" "Oh! these people are quarrelling". And the next thing I saw to my horror was that he hit the first accused and he hit the second accused, and the wall hit him back, and the three of them were bleeding. "Now, tell me what happened," the policeman said. You are asking that people should protest. That is what is happening in

other territories. We have learned from the British that you should not adjudge people guilty until they have been proved guilty. Britain, we believe you are a bulwark of justice and fair-play; you are a defender of the weak and the oppressed; here is something happening: the territory you are just setting on its feet is now faced with extinction.

I do not think that Great Britain can be silent for long. And it is in that faith that I want us to go forward. But put not your trust in princes. And somebody has asked us, let us put our trust in our own right arms. Our right arms are very weak. Dr K. O. Mbadiwe also asked us to march. March where? Is it to the desert? That might be too stifling. To the Atlantic Ocean? It might prove too wet or too cold. It would not get us too far. But there is something we can do so far, and that is what we are doing—expressing our feelings and relying upon the friends you have got, black or white or yellow, or any colour that it might be, mustering the world opinion against this terrible thing.

But I have one word more for my countrymen, for myself, and for the rest of the world. When he made that expression and he said, "Where shall we look to?" I said, "When you look to the right and there is no helper, and you look to the left and there is no helper, you look up". Someone said, I believe jokingly, he said, "What has God got to do with that?" I am telling you, Sir, that God has everything to do with the affairs of man, and it has been proved again and again in history. And unless Africans hold tight to that faith you have no chance in the world to-day. In our own lifetime it has happened when God has even intervened in affairs where people had thought all is over now.

The man who told the story is an Englishman. In the last war but one you remember there was a threat of gas warfare. In one of the campaigns fought in Europe, gas was actually used. People were warned beforehand because the Germans had calculated to win by blowing the gas, and so they let loose the gas. It floated slowly along until God intervened: the wind blew in the direction of the Germans and they died like so many rats. Great Britain did not do it. That God is not dead yet.



[CHIEF SOLARU]

Again you read in your history books—this is not in the Bible this time—the Great Armada, the Spanish people gathered in their thousands and invaded the shores of Great Britain. What could Drake and the other people do? There was one thing that I remember of that history of 1588—God blew with His winds and they were scattered. You remember that mighty galleons which blew up around the coast of Scotland and they were wrecked in the hilly sides of Scotland? Nobody did that. So I am asking my countrymen to have good faith in your friends. I am asking you also to have faith above all in God. Sir, it is not enough to express your opinion, but you must have belief that you are not the only people with a sense of fairness and of justice. Other people have them. It is to that that you must appeal.

You remember—and that will be my last instance on this occasion—when the Emperor of Ethiopia went before the nations of the world with the Princes of Ethiopia and he called on the League of Nations to help him against the Italian aggressor. When he found that help was not forthcoming, what did he say? He said, "God and history will remember your Government". In an appeal to his friends and in an ominous warning against his aggressors, he pledged his country to Britain, and there he sheltered until the tide turned and the Italians started to scurry across the desert like so many rats. And to-day if you went to a restaurant in Britain and said you wanted an Italian meal, people will say, "Oh! you want runner beans". Well that is a light side of it. I want you to believe that there is a special power that directs the destiny of men, and I do not think Africans are too far away. We are still close to nature. We should remain close to nature; and to nature is God. In all alliances we must not look at the side, but on the side of our allies, and first and foremost to God Himself. Let us pray for ourselves by all means, but let us not antagonise the friend that we have got.

After all, I want to remind you—I do not need to remind you—in the heat, we must throw out the bath water with the baby in it. If some other nations had their way, you would not be talking of independence in 1960. Apart from the Grace of God, nobody in Britain would wish you independence. But

there is something working in and through man's nature. It is working through Great Britain and that is why, despite other things, we have been promised independence in 1960. We talk about going North, and going South, and going West, and going East. A man is a man for all that until something happens to man. We have looked all round and in our quieter moments we have often said, of two evils choose the less.

I think we are fortunate to have come so far under British tutelage. Let us hold them to the promise that they will see us also to the Promised Land. They promised us membership of the Commonwealth. Let us not do anything prematurely to prejudice any relations that we might have. Also I know that we too have a lot to contribute to the United Nations. If you know the amount of talk that is going on in world circles to-day about the coming independence of Nigeria, you will know that the world will not stand by and see Nigerians poisoned like so many rats. God and history will remember. I support the Motion. (*Applause.*)

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** (South Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, as other Members of this House, I rise to support this Motion.

It is very unfortunate that this country, like other West African countries, on the verge of our independence is facing this threat, and that General de Gaulle of the French Government has, in spite of our protests, determined to carry out an atomic bomb test in the Sahara in the Nigerian border. We are a powerless and helpless nation. We must continue to protest against the test and at the same time appeal to other world powers until we can succeed in winning the help and sympathy for our salvation. If General de Gaulle is confident that the atomic bomb test in the Sahara is a thing that will be harmless to us, and if Mr Lennox-Boyd, the Colonial Secretary, shares the same opinion, let the test be carried out in Paris, the capital of France. This will prove the sincerity of the French Government that the test will indeed be harmless to human beings.

General de Gaulle should realise that we are the handmade of the Omnipotent, who is the maker of white and black. Our supplication so far has been sufficient to appease God



Himself to show mercy to us, how much less General de Gaulle. As a large country just emerging to nationhood, we need the help of the other countries in our progress and development. In this connection, we have received loans of millions of pounds from the United States of America, Britain and other world development organisations working for the welfare of underdeveloped countries like Nigeria. It is most disheartening that the only award to us by the French Government is an unprovoked and undefensible atom bomb on our country. Why is it so, General de Gaulle? If the French Government is truly prepared and determined to wage war against us they should not do so in such a barbaric and diabolical method. This will be certainly tantamount to a weakness on the part of the French Government. Any war, either provoked or unprovoked, just or unjust, should be waged with fairness and equal opportunity and with ample notice given by ultimatum between the belligerent countries. This is ethics of modern warfare. The French Government has not fulfilled any of these conditions, and if the French people are not cowards they should defer the attack on our territory until after independence, in order to give us ample chance to meet force with force, if possible.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope this country, Nigeria, still owes her allegiance to the British after independence. If so, the British Government should save us from the menace of the atomic bomb. The silent and seeming unconcern of the British Government over this atomic test is certainly remarkable and highly suspicious. We must protest and continue to protest, and if possible we Members of this House should go and witness the test in the Sahara Desert. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is better to die with the test if our protests will not make General de Gaulle yield than to wait to see our children and friends and our nation ruined by the after-effects of atomic bomb.

It is remarkable, Sir, that our sister country, Ghana, has made similar protests to General de Gaulle, but it does not seem that the General is in any way yielding. I am glad, Sir, that during the last world war Nigerian soldiers helped Great Britain to save the French Government and even General de Gaulle from Hitler. I remember at that time General de Gaulle himself fled to a part of Africa where he was hidden until his country was saved.

I do not think this is the best way General de Gaulle should pay us back. Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr Speaker :** There is one short thing. On Private Members' Days I do wish to leave it to the sense of the House what progress is made to the Order Paper. Many debates reach a peak at which a decision is very profitable. Sometimes the debate declines after that peak is reached. I leave it entirely to the House.

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

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) :** I rise to support this Motion, Sir. It is said that God helps those who help themselves. I believe that we are helping ourselves by supporting this Motion. A lot has been said about this Motion, and as there are other Motions on the Order Paper, 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 nemine contradicente,* That this House fully supports the Prime Minister and the Governments of the Federation for steps that they have taken to warn France to desist from her projected Atom Bomb test in the Sahara.

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL LINES AND THE CONFERENCE LINE, AND BETWEEN THE NIGERIAN AIR LINES AND B.O.A.C.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion on the Order Paper stands in my name, That this House views with grave concern—

(a) the Agreement between the Nigerian National Lines and the Conference Line ;

(b) the Agreement between Nigerian Air Lines (W.A.A.C.) Ltd, and the B.O.A.C. and calls on the Council of Ministers to lay on the Table of this House all such Agreements past and present, which create obligations on behalf of Nigeria.

We have had a long day, and yesterday the matter relating to part (b) of that Motion was raised and the appropriate Minister suggested



[MR WACHUKU]

that at the Committee Stage of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill he was likely to make a comprehensive statement. I assume also that the appropriate Minister would do the same thing in respect of part (a), and for this reason, in order to keep my powder dry, I withdraw. (*Loud applause*).

*Motion by leave withdrawn.*

#### Election Expenses

**Mr A. A. Ajibola** (Egbado North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads as follows: "That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable to introduce legislation regulating election expenses in this country".

**An hon. Member** : Action Group !

**Mr Ajibola** : The main purpose of this Motion is to educate the voters as to what they should do and what they should not do during an election period.

**An hon. Member** : After you have distributed two and a half million pounds. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Speaker** : I would like to sentence members who interrupt to have earphones clamped on to their heads and listen to the noise they make. Please, do not interrupt.

**Mr Ajibola** : At present most of us have had the experience of what an election looks like in this country and as we are progressing to become a nation in the true sense of the word we should also try to copy some other parts of the world. If a candidate wants to contest an election the next thing which the majority of the people will do is to demand money from that candidate.

**An hon. Member** : Action Group.

**Another hon Member** : Mr Benson started it.

**Mr Ajibola** : If this is what the Action Groupers do the Motion will not come from this side of the House.

**An hon. Member** : Guilty conscience.

**Mr Ajibola** : In rural areas, some chiefs would like a candidate to give a certain amount of money before the villagers under their control could vote for that particular candidate and if that candidate, though he may be very brilliant and intelligent and capable for the post, does not have the money to give, the next thing is that the crooks, his opponents, who have the

money but not the ability for the post will have it. If we go on like this the danger is that as years roll by we shall be losing the best brains in our respective Legislatures.

**An hon. Member** : It is true.

**Mr Ajibola** : If we do not start right from now to educate our people during an election that what they should look for is the ability of that particular candidate and not his pockets, when shall we start ? We must start right from now, Sir. Similar legislations have been made in places like Great Britain, United States of America, Canada and some other parts of the world. In England, for instance, a candidate who wants to contest an election must not spend more than a certain amount of money.

**Several hon. Members** : How much ?

**Another hon. Member** : After the election you should go and pay your debt.

**Mr Ajibola** : For instance, in England a candidate is permitted to spend just four hundred and fifty pounds plus three and a half pence per elector in urban constituency. Now when we view this amount with the wealth of Great Britain we shall see that in our own country something smaller would be preferable. But instead of that it is not uncommon to find that during nominations alone. . . (*Interruptions*). This matter is something above party politics and it is something very common throughout the country and we shall be deceiving ourselves if we try to point an accusing finger to the Action Group and try to make yourselves innocent. This thing has spread all over the country and we should all put our heads together in order to get rid of it. I feel that for an election whatever amount a candidate may spend, especially for paying agents and transport, should not be more than three hundred pounds.

**An hon. Member** : Point of Order, Sir, the Action Group bought twenty NCNCers to form the Government in 1951.

**Mr Speaker** : That is not a point of Order. It is interruption.

**Mr Ajibola** : I say that three hundred pounds is sufficient to run an election for the country but if Chiefs and some other so-called big men demand money ranging from five hundred to two thousand pounds, where do we go as a race ? And if before a candidate is



elected he is already in heavy debt how could he serve the country freely? Then, if a candidate is already in heavy debt he will be looking for the ways and means to pay this debt after he is elected and as a result he will not be able to serve the country conscientiously, and it is the electors themselves that are putting the candidate in this particular position.

In view of this I realise that in order to get the best men to serve this country in the best possible way there should be a sort of legislation, as it is in Great Britain and some other civilised parts of the world, limiting the amount of money which a candidate must spend during an election period. Well, when this legislation is passed members of the public will know that there is legislation dealing with this bad practice and even though the practice may not stop immediately, right from the beginning, it will reduce. But if nothing is done about it at this stage the danger will be increasing from year to year until it comes to a stage that ambitious youngmen will not come forward for election again. I am saying this in the best interest of this country and if the members on my right hand can follow what I have said it will be in their own interest also.

**An hon. Member :** The Members on your right are Action Group (*Interruptions*).

**Mr Ajibola :** As for me I do not have to spend like this before I get in, but I know what is going on in some parts of the country and any time there is an election in my area I will be elected, not because I have the money but because my people have interest in me (*Hear, hear*). (*Interruption*).

**Chief A. Akerele (Oyo South) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second, and in doing so may I say that what the mover of this Motion has been trying to impress upon this House is that in the Federation, or some part of the Federation, it is now a common practice that five per cent demands are being made from those awarded contracts. And why is this being done? It is because certain Members say that they need more money to fight at the elections and when they put into Corporations they take such undue advantage.

This will not be of any good to the country and I say, Sir, this, that most of the Members here, especially from the East, will not be returning to this House because there is not

sufficient fund to run the next election. The demand is so high in that part of the Federation that most of them will be seen for the last time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) :** In speaking to this Motion I would like to bring to the Mover the saying that "Charity begins at home". This Motion would have been proper if money politics had not been introduced in this country by the Action Group. (*Hear, hear*). I will say this, Sir, that before the 1951 Elections when members were being nominated in this Legislature there was nothing like money politics in this country, but in 1951 when the first Constitution came into being and people had to go through electoral colleges, people who actually contested the election on a certain political platform on the eve of forming the Government were given money and that was why the Action Group was able to form the Government of the Western Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, they form the Government of the Western Region not because they won popular vote at the elections; they form the Government because they were able to buy over about 20 members of the N.C.N.C.

I am therefore ashamed that a member of the Action Group, Mr Ajibola, who was returned unopposed to this House on the platform of the N.C.N.C., should move this Motion. Why did he cross over? (*Loud applause*). He is now going back to preach what he ought not to preach. It may be he is now facing some difficulty. He now knows that if he must return to this House he must bribe the electorate plenty of money. But my poor friend has no money. He cannot come here and ask that legislation should be made; my friend it is too late. You have sent delegations and ambassadors to Egypt, to America asking for loans to contest the election.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) :** But this is wrong.

**Mr Adeyinka :** I agree with you that it is wrong to bribe the voters. It is morally wrong to bribe the voters. Nobody should be elected simply because he can bribe his way through, but is the Action Group going to stop this? Action Group have corrupted the whole country. Some of us should have supported this Motion; but look at my friend Akerele



[MR ADEYINKA]

from Oyo before he came to this House. He knows how much he spent. He knows that without bribe he would not have come to this House.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** : On a point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member is imputing corrupt motive on an hon. Member of this House.

**Mr Speaker** : It is of course quite contrary to the Standing Orders and I am sure the hon. Member did not intend to impute corrupt motive.

**Mr Adeyinka** : Thank you, Mr Speaker. It may be that he got me wrong. The point is that some Members could not have been elected but for corrupt practices. I say the Action Group as a political party is corrupt. My point is that if he wants us to support this Motion he should go back and educate his party men that it is morally wrong for them to bribe the voters before they vote. Let them go to the electorates with plans—constructive plans. The Action Group have no plan whatever. They are now distributing sums of money in the North in order to form the Government of the Federal Government which will never be.

I am saying that if my friend Mr Ajibola wants this Motion to be passed in this House he should go back to his party leaders and educate them on the fact that it is wrong to corrupt the voters.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose this Motion.

**Mr J. A. G. Ohiani** (Igbirra) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad that this Motion has not come from either the N.C.N.C. or the N.P.C. The Motion has come from where the actual practice takes place. Already, Mr Speaker, the party has voted £3,000 per candidate to be used for bribing the electorates. Already bales of stockfish have been sent to the East. The Action Group party members are so useless in their politics, and the best thing to do is try and wipe them away from Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the man who actually moved this Motion did so as a layman, but not as a lawyer. He has tabled it and has become ashamed to speak very strongly on it because he is well-known on this particular issue and the best thing for him to do is to withdraw his Motion quietly. You are the people who wear

the gown of bribery and corruption and you come to this House to make yourselves plain. I am opposing this Motion and asking every Member of this House to oppose it. I am saying that the Mover of this Motion has already lost his nomination. This Motion ought not to have come to this hon. House and therefore it is useless before any Member here. I know it is your custom ; we are sorry and I am opposing this Motion and I am assuring you that you people—the Action Group—will return to this House considerably reduced.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

**Mr Mormoni Bazza** (North Adamawa Trust Territory) : I would first of all, Mr Speaker, ask the Minister of Communications and Aviation to cool down before I speak because I have every respect for him, being on the Government bench, and I would like him to wait a little until January when he will be on the opposition bench.

I will start by asking the mover of this Motion a question. He was elected on the N.C.N.C. platform and he was there for some time. Why had he to cross carpet ? I wonder if he could explain to the House and to the country why he crossed carpet. There is no change in the N.C.N.C. policy ; there is no change in the Action Group policy ; why did you have to cross carpet ? Merely because he has been bribed before he crossed carpet. It is evident, it is a known feature of the Action Group and it is known to people that they brought the question of money into our politics in Nigeria. In the last election registration cards were bought in the East, voting papers were bought in the East ; the same thing in the West and the same in the North.

**An hon. Member** : Did you not spend money ?

**M. Mormoni Bazza** : I can now tell the House I spent only 7s for my election and this is the amount I gave to a boy whom I sent a message with a bicycle. (*Loud applause*). And I can assure you that I come back to the House no matter how much you spend. I will still come back to the House.

It is a shame any way for the Action Group to bring this Motion to the House. It is known that the Action Group have made people contest election against each other. You have



made a wife contest against a husband. You have made a child contest an election against his father. Why do you do one thing outside and do a different thing in the House? Give the House and the country your true picture. It is your aim to win elections by all means through money. We have understood from some reliable sources that you have induced some firms in this country and outside to give you money to contest elections, but I assure you no matter how much you spend you will never form the Government.

**Mr Speaker :** Will the hon. Member please address me? Face me if he can.

**M. Bazza :** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thought my speech would have more force if I face the opposition Members. It is a pity that the Action Group are trying to tell the country what they intend to do. I can remember before the last Federal Elections there was a time in this Legislature when this party introduced a Motion on 5s minimum wage. They were trying to secure votes and this time they are trying to do the same thing. They are trying to give the impression that they do not spend money in contesting elections, but that is not true. I remember yesterday one of the Members from the Bench made mention of a welfare state. We welcome a welfare state but the fact is, do they really mean it. The British Government, for instance is spending a lot of money on the welfare state. It is you people who go round and tell the people in order that they might elect you that you will reduce their taxes, you will pay them 5s minimum wage. I know that people in the Western Region are overtaxed and if you want to tax them more introduce the welfare state.

Well, Mr Speaker, I am opposing his Motion. I remember during the last visit of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the Minister.... (Interruption.)

**An hon. Member :** You cannot even pronounce his name.

**M. Bazza :** I do not want to know his name in fact. It is even a good thing that I have said Awolowo. I have no faith in him. I remember during his visit to the Northern Region, he visited Adamawa Province and he knew very well that he could not get some audience to lecture to and he told his supporters

that he would be coming with plenty of money. That he would come with a lorry full of money, and he promised so many things—money, clothes, shoes and so on. When they came and saw him, they all came to get the promise made to them. When they came he could not give them anything. He only gave them the promise of money to build houses and all sorts of things.

The people are fully aware of what the Action Group is doing. But I have this to tell the country before I sit down. I will say that anybody who sees it fit to cast his vote for the Action Group will be doing only one thing and that is he will be committing suicide, complete suicide. I do not think there is any time the Action Group will ever form the Government of this Federation.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to express my sympathy to the mover and with the intention of the Motion. Much as I think it desirable that something must be done to arrest this unfortunate way of spending money, I feel that we have got time as our ally in this instance.

I am sure every Member of the House would wish to see some measure to regulate election expenses; regulations satisfactory in highly developed countries like the United Kingdom. My friend quoted a total for election expenses in the United Kingdom, he was almost correct except that where he quoted they were allowed £450. But I would let him know that the cost has now risen, it is 2d for each name on the register of the electorate, unless of course, in the case of borough constituencies. I am afraid that whilst sympathising with the intention of the mover I am opposing his Motion on purely practical grounds.

This matter was considered by the Electoral Committee of the Constitutional Conference who reached a conclusion that it would be impracticable in the present circumstances to try and regulate election expenses. I am particularly happy that those who feel the pinch of this unfortunate business have found time to vent their disagreement towards what they know is evil and what they now see going on—I do not know whether in practices themselves. But let us hope that we have all benefited by the expressions of their experiences. We already realise that it will be a good thing for this



[MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS]

country if elections are free and fair. But I think this House must get its story from section 101 of Election Regulations, which lays down what are corrupt practices, and I am afraid that, at the moment, little more can be done about them. If you study your Election Regulations and know what corrupt practices are, you will make sure that you report to the police as soon as you find your opponent is corrupting the electorate.

I do not know whether this is not a ruse to disarm those of us who are very keen to run down to earth those who we know very well are practising these corrupt practices now. But I warn Members to be on their guard and not to be carried away by a little bit of sweet nonsense—anybody who tells you that they are clean. And I appeal to you that these practices should be stopped.

I agree with somebody who said that "Charity begins at home", though it must not necessarily end there. I think it would be fair if we had a ceiling to these election expenses. I suppose the law has properly laid down what should be your redress if you felt that your opponent had been indulging in corrupt practices. The Government has sympathy with this Motion and I would say in fairness to all of us, those, if not all of us who are feeling the pinch in this bad system, that I think we are only indulging locally, we cannot help but express sympathy to the mover and seconder of this very valuable and useful Motion which, as I said before, events have overtaken its usefulness. Maybe the next election after the forthcoming one, somebody will think it fit to bring this useful Motion in the light of experiences that we have gathered here.

I thank again the mover of the Motion and I express again to him my sympathy. But I regret that Government is not able to accept this Motion because it is absolutely impracticable at this time to do so.

Mr Speaker, I oppose.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that the mover of the Motion did not move the Motion which stands on the Order Paper. On the Order Paper the Motion seeks to ask this House to introduce legislation regulating election expenses in this country. During his speech he harped very much on election corruption—bribery and corruption.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am putting it to you whether what he had in his Paper is what he has just told the House. Nobody would ever oppose regulating election expenses, if the expenses are made clear that they will be very well regulated. But to refer to bribery and corruption, it becomes impossible, Mr Speaker, to insist on how the House will introduce legislation to regulate bribery and corruption in elections. If the Motion is to show how difficult the Action Group has found it to convince the electorate of this country to receive money and cast votes for somebody in whom they have no faith, it is then proper from the Floor of this House to tell the mover to carry the view of this House to his party members, the great men who can spend money for nothing, to tell them to stop doing so.

Mr Speaker, to add to that, I would tell you that in my area I have been returned unopposed; nobody applied against me, I spent no penny and my people are not after taking money. They will cast their vote for only the man they choose. I come from Owerri Division. They are not like your people who will take money and sell their souls. I would say that the Minister will ask the same person to come through and table a proper Motion in the House calling upon the leaders of the main political parties of this country to give an undertaking to the Federal Government that they will never ask anybody to accept money and cast vote for them.

I want to make it abundantly clear that if there is any bad man with corruption in this country it is an Action Group. My hon. friend Chief S. L. Akintola knows that very well. The intention of the mover of the Motion is very good but he has to come out plain and ask the Government to introduce legislation to regulate or disband, to make a law against offering anything at all for election in this country. The Electoral Regulation is not enough for the Action Group and that is why the mover has brought this Motion which I am sorry to say he has not been able to move.

I do not know whether you are going to oppose his statement or oppose the Motion which he has not moved. He has asked the House to regulate against bribery and corruption in elections. The House is of the opinion that bribery and corruption should not come



into elections. It is in the Electoral Regulation that nobody should offer anything to get a vote. For your information, Mr Speaker, I think the mover has to carry that home. We are not opposing any regulation to stop bribery and corruption but we are opposing the Motion as he has put it on the Paper but has not been able to move it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Motion as it stands and will ask the mover to tell his party men not to continue to bribe the people of this country during elections.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should have thought that after the Minister of Internal Affairs had spoken enough sense should have been driven into the heads of the NCNCers that they will begin to reason intelligently. Apart from the speeches of the mover and his supporter all we have been listening to is nothing but balderdash. What is the intention of the motion? It is that legislation should be introduced in this country to regulate elections expenses. Certainly it is within the competence of this House to regulate election expenses in respect of Federal elections. It is idle to talk of election expenses in respect of the Regions because that is not a matter within our province. So that those who suggest that charity should begin at home, I think, with all respect are not talking enough sense. It is only in the interest of the N.C.N.C. members themselves that this Motion should be passed.

The hon. Minister has spoken with enough sense. He said time is against the passage of this Bill into law. What I will say is that there is no harm in adopting this Motion, not necessarily for him to pass the legislation. I know that next year he will not be here to pilot such a Bill. But it is sufficient for the Government to accept this Motion and leave it to abler hands to pass it next year. As I said, it is in the best interests of the N.C.N.C. that this Motion should be passed. We all know that some of them have not paid the debt they incurred as a result of the last election. Some of them are under a writ of *fi fa* for not paying debts incurred during the last elections. After, all, what does this Motion seek? The gentleman who moved it said that this law is to

regulate election expenses and he went to the extent of citing examples of Great Britain as to what are allowable expenses. How does bribery and corruption come in? If it is desirable that election expenses should be regulated, and he has given very good reasons for this—it is because there is no such regulation that we find men not of the right calibre in this House, men who apart from money, have no right to claim to be in this House.

We on this side believe in what is right and what is good. We will continue to say it, if there is such a regulation as my learned and hon. Friend suggests, and the wisdom of which even the Minister of Internal Affairs has attested to, money will be of little import in considering the worth of the candidate. The Minister may be right in saying time is against us but if he accepts the spirit of this Motion, if the Government accepts it, then there will be sufficient time for this legislation to be passed. All we are requesting you to do is to accept it and as long as you say you are in sympathy with it, I think it will be most insincere not to accept it. Once you accept the spirit of this, let it go through. It is the corrupt mind that will not see sense in this thing and a good many of them abound in the N.C.N.C.

I beg to support this Motion.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion is that in the opinion of the House it is desirable to introduce legislation regulating election expenses in this country. No time limit. My learned and hon. Friend says the country includes Regions therefore the Motion should include the Regional Houses. My only reason for saying this is that this Motion gives me an opportunity to expose these people. These people come to talk like this. I have stood election since 1951. My people know full well the history of my candidature. I challenge any one of you there to stand exactly on the same position as I stand now and come to this House.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): I accept the challenge.



**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Prior to 1951 nobody, the people of the rural areas, did not think of bribe. They looked at people on their merit, their upbringing and their association with them, their standing in society. I say this for myself, my Party knows that, you cannot say the same thing as I say. I challenge you to allow us to investigate the National Bank and some members of the Action Group will commit suicide.

**An hon. Member :** The African Continental Bank Inquiry.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** If that inquiry were to be instituted in connection with the National Bank there would be so many people committing suicide. If the same leader were to go through the same mill as some political leader elsewhere has gone through in this very room so many people will commit suicide. I challenge you or anybody else to stand the test. (*Interruption*). Because the powers that be at one time favoured you, you come here to be the whitewashed sepulchre. Personally I support the Motion. The Government has said that at this time it is not expedient, it is not possible to introduce the Motion. But the Action Group is always putting a political stunt. They purposely brought this Motion to this House. They want to say they brought a Motion to this House to limit election expenses and the NPC and NCNC turned it down. We know they do not believe in it. There is no need bringing a thing you do not believe in. They take money from the Regions put it into the National Bank, take it away and go and distribute all over the whole place among Action Group contractors. I would like the Sardauna of Sokoto, leader of the NPC, Dr Azikiwe, leader of the NCNC and Chief Awolowo leader of the Action Group to come up in this Federation and make a public statement and appeal to the people and give an undertaking that their parties should not give any money to anybody. (*Applause*).

The only goodwill that the Action Group have in this country is pounds, shillings and pence, nothing else, and to come and bring this type of bogus motion to this House to hoodwink people is a sheer waste of time. Now that we have been given the opportunity to declare in no uncertain terms that the most corrupt party in this country is the Action Group,

I will take this opportunity to announce to all rural people that this corrupt party is the enemy of all morality, the basic standard of traditional honesty of African peoples. And by bringing this motion here, it is only to hoodwink the people and make them select the wrong people bring them to the Legislature so as to squander the funds of the state in order to distribute them to their private companies.

Personally I support the motion; I am not speaking for the Government. Government had already stated that under the circumstances it cannot be anything and the man who proposed the motion himself was relating his sufferings and tribulations. This is not a motion to tell us of his acute sufferings and tribulations. He is tired of it, and he wants us to help him. This is not the place for that.

Therefore, Sir, I do not want to support and I do not want to oppose.

*Question put and negatived.*

*Sitting suspended : 4.35 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 4.55 p.m.*

USE OF DIESEL OIL BY THE ELECTRICITY CORPORATION AND THE RAILWAY CORPORATION

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name—That this House views with grave concern the decision of both the Electricity Corporation and the Railway Corporation to use diesel oil in preference to coal, and calls upon the Government to urge the Corporations to review this policy immediately in order to save the economy of the Eastern Region in particular and of the Federation in general.

Sir, the headquarters of the Eastern Region was located at Udi between the years 1900 and 1907. Eventually a Surveyor who was attached to the militia, one Mr Iva, discovered coal at Enugu, and the headquarters was transferred from Udi to Enugu because of coal. It follows that the establishment of the headquarters of the Eastern Region at Enugu was due, in the main, to the discovery of coal.

Again, Sir, the railway was started from Lagos to the North, and on the discovery of the coal at Enugu, the railway line from Port Harcourt to Enugu, a distance of 151 miles, was started. The main user of coal became the Railway Corporation. In those days it was known as the Nigerian Railway. Another



great user of coal became the Electricity Undertakings which, in those days, was a branch of the Public Works Department.

With the years the coal industry flourished, and eventually the man power employed there rose from a few thousands to eight thousand men now. The main difficulties of the coal industry started with the institution of corporations in Nigeria. The Nigerian Government Colliery was formed into a corporation under Ordinance No. 29 of 1950, and the Electricity Undertakings also became a corporation under Ordinance No. 15 of 1950. These two Corporations opened, at their vesting day, on the 1st of April, 1951. Eventually, after the Constitutional Conference, a decision was taken to turn the Railway also into a corporation, and by 1954 the House of Representatives passed into law the Ordinance which established the Railway Corporation.

The issue now is that the coal industry was managed by the Government and the Nigerian Railways by the Government. These were turned into statutory corporations with independent powers, although with powers of direction from the responsible Minister. Sir, with the change over from a Government Department to a Corporation, the E.C.N. took over the Government Undertakings at Lagos, Warri and Sapele at that time in the West; Kaduna, Zaria, Yola, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Jos, Vom and Bukuru in the North; Enugu, Calabar, Port Harcourt, Aba, Abakaliki in the East; Victoria in the Cameroons; and finally, Native Authority Undertakings at Ibadan, Abeokuta in the West; and Kaduna and Kano in the North. All these Undertakings were using coal, and most of them are using coal now as the lone source of power.

Now, Sir, under the Ordinance, the Railway Corporation undertook to be the seller of coal for the Nigerian Coal Corporation within Nigeria, and also the coal industry itself was established for the main purpose of supplying coal to the Railway Corporation. The point now is that these Corporations are backing out. The backing out of these Corporations, the Railway Corporation and the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, is now causing anxiety to the coal industry, and the economy of the Region from which coal is obtained is now hard hit. I say that even the Federation itself will be hard put to it by the consequences attendant on this change over which is abrupt.

If these Corporations are backing out, as they are, the Coal Corporation, if it were to find a better market than the Railway Corporation and the E.C.N., may wish to go to that market. Would the Government of the Federation allow the Coal Corporation to sell to outside agencies, even if the Coal Corporation were to get more money for it? You are aware that the Governments of West Africa, such as Ghana and Sierra Leone, were getting coal from us. If we were to find a better market which would pay higher to the Coal Corporation than the Railway and the E.C.N. would it be profitable to the country that the Coal Corporation should sell to outside agencies and refuse to sell to those Corporations that are within Nigeria?

The point is that when it became evident that this Motion was coming before the House of Representatives, the E.C.N. came out with a ruse and made a statement to the effect that the E.C.N. would make a profit of £250 daily because of the conversion from the use of coal to the use of diesel; and that went over the air and it was given out to the Press. I felt that this was a case of pulling wool over the eyes of the public, because certain things are involved. Before the E.C.N. could make money by a change over they must, in the first instance, tell the country how much money was used in capital expenditure by the change of specifications, from coal specifications to diesel specifications; and what amount of money was involved and how that money had been obtained, before they could be said to make a profit. It is not right to say that the E.C.N. is making a profit because of the change over. The thing to be considered is if the capital expenditure has been made good, and that is only when any such statement could hold water.

Sir, the ultimate effect of this change over is being realised by the coal industry. At present the Coal Corporation have decided, as a matter of urgency, to retrench most of its workers. Therefore the issue is that a labour force of about 2,500 men have been retrenched. What is involved in this reduction of staff? In the first place, those people who were employed before 1937, a total of about 600 men, have been fired and people who were employed from 1957 onwards have been fired, which is about 900 people—in all about 1,500 men.



[MR ENEH]

The issue now is, Sir, how are they going to get rid of another 1,000 men? And the answer is to go progressively and fire people in the 1940-47 bracket as well as people in the 1954-59 bracket. As a result about 700 who are in the lower category will get their retiring benefits—allowances and all the rest of it. But those in the 1954-59 bracket are not entitled to compensation. The Government of Nigeria has a policy, and this policy is adopted by the Corporation, that workers who have not put in ten years' service should not be given pension rights or gratuity, unless in special circumstances. About 1,900 people are involved and these people are not in a position of getting retiring benefits, pension or gratuity or anything else unless they take the law into their own hands by asking the Coal Corporation to give them money for loss of profession.

It follows that even in ordinary taxation in which these people are involved the Eastern Region Government are going to lose a lot of money, in fact up to the tune of about £200,000. If the coal output is going down progressively the revenue which the Government of the Eastern Region will be getting from coal will be going down progressively, and, eventually, out of the amount of money which is earmarked for the Government of the Eastern Region, a very small amount will be going to that Region.

We do not produce diesel oil, Sir. Diesel oil is only bought from abroad and the country, as it stands to-day, is using petrol to the tune of about £50 million, that is the Government agencies, public Corporations and everybody, and this works out at about over £1 per head of the population. If these Corporations, the Railway and the E.C.N. were to use diesel it follows that the country would be burdened with another ten to twenty million pounds of oil alone, and this money would not stay in the country, it would go outside the country because we are not producers of diesel oil. Therefore the economy of the Federation itself is being affected. It would follow that the Government of the Federation would be affected economically, the Regional Government would be affected economically, and, worst of all, the workers would be terribly affected.

When I say that about 2,500 workers are affected I am talking in terms of the individuals

affected. But when you consider the number of people who hang on these people you will realise that tens of thousands of people are going to be affected. Because of this I am asking the Government to think twice before the change over. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**Mr C. C. E. Onoh (Udi)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, it gives me the greatest pleasure to support this Motion, especially after we have just passed a Motion asking the French Government to suspend the atom bomb test in the Sahara. Out here we feel the impact of the atom test because public opinion is definitely against it. We expressed the views of Nigeria, and indeed of the whole world, when we told the French people not to test that bomb. Similarly we, the legislators from Udi Division, come here to express the views of our people. It is always a difficult thing for a doctor to perform a *post mortem* on a friend he lost. We here are witnessing the abandonment of an old friend.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not at all, I repeat, I am not at all jealous of the progress made by certain countries in the world. Progress, they say, is the law of man, and the price of progress must be paid in the currency of hard labour. But there are certain countries that have made a tremendous progress, from 1917 to 1947 they produced the atom bomb. That is real progress, but at what expense? At the expense of their citizens; they take no notice of the sufferings of the people; they employ forced labour. Similarly, we have Britain with a civilisation dating back to eight hundred years ago or more than that, almost eight centuries. It has been a gradual progress; step by step they climbed the hill. We here are not opposed to progress. It must surely come one day: diesel oil, petrol and, sooner or later, they will be replaced by the press-button system—automation.

Yes, that is what has become of the old school. Coal has served this country through out her industrial development. We produced coal for the factories (if we had any factory then) and for the industries, but now we are being forgotten. Last time, I think it was on the 10th of February, I was supporting a Motion made by my hon. Friend Chief Onyia and I pointed out that about two thousand five hundred miners would be dismissed. They



did not take me seriously at that time but the tragedy of it is that these people were not informed in time. If they had been informed and the Federal Government had taken steps to retrench these people gradually, say by a hundred or two hundred instead of this mass dismissal it would have been a different thing now.

Perhaps people in this House might not take it seriously because it does not affect them but the truth is that those five hundred people who have been dismissed or retrenched from the coal mines of Enugu had been seduced by this Government. These people that have been working in the firms, people that have looked for other sources for their income have been gradually lured to the mines to look for money in the day time with candles and lanterns. Now, they have been driven out and the very land on which they stand has been taken in the name of the Crown and called Crownland. Where will they go? They have no profession, nobody to run to, nobody to help them. The only thing is that the Minister of Mines and Power is gradually reducing his power only to increase work for the Minister of Welfare because the prison yard might one day be their own abode, for if you have nothing to eat you have got to look for it one way or the other (*Interruptions*) and I do not wonder. Poverty has no remedy.

Mr Speaker Sir, it is an accepted fact that diesel oil and petroleum are cheaper than coal. It is a sad fact and I accept it, but in Britain we have forty-four million tons of coal lying fallow. These people have not closed their mines, they have not sent all the workers out, they have adopted a gradual process of rehabilitation. These very people like the miners of Bukuru and Jos and the ex-servicemen want food and protection. If you have to dismiss them you must find them alternative employment.

When last I spoke the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister made mention of Mr Rankine's report and assures us that progress is being made in the utilisation of the by-products of coal. It will be alleviating to the people if we here know what progress the Federal Government is making towards the establishment of industries that will utilise our coal. Above all, the trouble now facing the

coal industry is lack of consultation between the consumers and the producers. The consumers make their plans independent of producers and the producers make their own plans also. Why cannot the Federal Government establish a system of joint consultative committee between the Railway Corporation, the E.C.N. and the Nigerian Coal Corporation so that eventually these people might decide on how much tonnage would have to be used and the rate of production? We are facing a difficult period so far as coal is concerned, for a country depending on oil in this world of uncertainty is surely embarking on a perilous project. We must remember the events in the Suez when a single nation by a single enactment held the whole world to ransom... (*Interruption*).

I hear someone on that side telling me to sit down because it does not concern him. I am begging and appealing to the Federal Government to look for other means whereby coal can be utilised and save us from the unemployment that is facing the people of Udi Division. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

*Question proposed.*

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Mr I. S. Usman): Mr Speaker, Sir, during the past two meetings of the House of Representatives Members have shown considerable concern as to the future of the coal mining industry and have on several occasions urged the Government to direct the Railway and Electricity Corporations to abandon their policy of using diesel oil and fuel oil wherever it can be shown that considerable economies are effected by so doing. This Motion gives the Government yet another opportunity to reiterate its policy on this matter which is of vital concern, as Members realise, to the future development and prosperity of Nigeria.

The whole question of the effect of dieselisation of the Railways was very closely examined by the National Economic Council, on which all Governments are represented, during 1957, and having taken into consideration all the arguments most of which have, in one form or another, since been raised by Members of this House, the balance of advantage seemed to lie with dieselisation. As a logical corollary the Government did not attempt to divert



[M. I. S. USMAN]

the Electricity Corporation from its programme of converting the power station at Lagos from coal burning to oil burning.

When the Government first considered the economies of the dieselisation of the Railway, it had before it a report on the subject by Messrs Merz and McLellan, which, among other things, illustrated the savings which could be effected by conversion from steam to diesel locomotives in Nigeria. The figures which they produced made it apparent that by the use of diesel locomotives in the Eastern and Western Regions of Nigeria only, the saving on operating costs would be £516,000 per annum, which saving would be gained at the expense of a total increased capital expenditure in those Regions of £595,000.

More recently figures have been prepared by the Railway Corporation showing the relative costs per mile of the two forms of traction based on the present fuelling charges at Lagos, Port Harcourt and Zaria. These figures show that when locomotives are fuelled at Lagos the running cost per mile for diesel locomotives is 36.1 pence whereas the cost of running a steam locomotive fuelled at Lagos is 71.3 pence. At Port Harcourt the figures are—for diesel locomotives 36.16 pence per mile, and for steam locomotives 53.31 pence per mile; and when the locomotives are fuelled at Zaria the comparative figures are 37.82 pence per mile for diesel locomotives and 65.27 pence per mile for steam locomotives. These impressive figures prove conclusively that diesel locomotives are presently the most economic form of traction and are likely to remain so.

While the great difference between the price of coal and oil is the major factor in the figures which I have just given, it is by no means the only factor favouring the gradual policy of dieselisation by the Railway Corporation. Members will recall that this policy of dieselisation of the Railways was first recommended in the report of the International Bank Mission which said:—

“We recommend that for more efficient and economical operation steam traction should gradually be replaced by diesel electric traction, starting in the North. Basing our calculations on the experience of other African countries we estimate that

aggregate savings of nearly 50 per cent can be realised on expenditure for fuel, water and engine operation and maintenance.”

There is also in favour of dieselisation the difficulty encountered in watering steam locomotives, especially in the Northern Region in the dry season. Another point is the greater length of time which steam locomotives must necessarily spend in routine maintenance and servicing. Against these advantages the only argument of any substance which can be brought forward in favour of steam traction is that the diesel locomotives cause rather heavier wear on the permanent way. In short, therefore, if cheaper freight rates are in the best interests of the national economy, the adoption of diesel traction by the Railway is the best means to obtain them.

Turning now to electricity, the Electricity Corporation have plans at present to convert only the power station at Lagos to burn fuel oil instead of coal, but even so, from the conversion of this one power station spectacular savings in operating costs can be effected. The first boiler to use fuel oil was brought into use at the end of May, and it is expected that the remainder will have been converted by the end of November. Nevertheless, it is estimated that the savings in operational costs during the current financial year will be of the order of £100,000 while the savings over the cost of coal in a full year of operation will reach £400,000. The closure of the power station at Ibadan after the completion of the transmission line from Lagos will result in further economies leading to a saving of an additional £34,000 per annum. In addition to the cash savings the use of fuel oil makes for greater boiler efficiency and for far more flexibility of operation.

Hon. Members may not be aware that the Electricity Corporation has recently enlarged the scope of its development programme to £15.85 million. Although the increase from about £11 million has been financed partly by contributions from the Regional Governments, the Corporation expect to find over £1 million of that from profits which can be accounted for solely by the savings which will come from burning fuel oil instead of coal at Ijora. If, therefore, the corporation were now compelled to revert to coal, over £1 million



*House of Representatives Debates*

1785

[Dieselisation]

11 AUGUST 1959

[Dieselisation]

1786

which it is planned should be available for further development and expansion during the next four years would not be to hand.

In the light of what I have just said I think hon. Members will agree that it would be improper of the Government to request either corporation to review its present policy of using the cheapest source of energy.

The Mover of the Motion is concerned with the effect of a lower rate of production of coal on the economy of the Federation and in particular of the Eastern Region. It will be apparent that no single part of the economy of a country can be considered in isolation, and regrettable though it is that, due to a substantial fall in consumption, production of coal has had to be reduced from last year's peak figure of 905,000 tons to a figure of approximately 720,000 tons per annum, I should like to suggest to the House that the economy of Nigeria will be far healthier if the Railway Corporation and the Electricity Corporation are allowed to continue to operate in the most efficient manner and are not asked to subsidize the Coal Corporation by using coal instead of oil. It will be immediately apparent to Members that the transport of goods and the provision of electricity as cheaply as possible will have wider effects on the ordinary consumer throughout the country than will the imposition of an artificially high level of coal production.

Considerable publicity has been given to the retrenchment which has taken place in the coal mines as a result of declining consumption. The position is that the Union involved was informed several months ago that there would either have to be some retrenchment or that a 5-day week would have to be introduced. The Management's representatives said that in their view the most satisfactory immediate solution would be to introduce a 5-day week for the Corporation's daily rated employees. This solution would have enabled the Corporation to retain the labour force in full against the time when the demand for coal might increase. It would also have safeguarded the interests of the workers concerned while the earnings of stall would not have been affected. The Union rejected this proposal and suggested that about 2,000 workers should be retired from the service and that they should be paid their earned gratuities and pensions. It is on the

advice of the Union therefore that in the past nine months there has been a reduction of approximately 2,700 employees. In considering this problem it should be realised that it is not confined to Nigeria, but is a world-wide problem and that in most other coal producing countries faced with a similar crisis the Unions have accepted a reduction in working hours as an alternative to depriving a number of their members of their livelihood. It is hoped, however, that there will be no need for further retrenchment in the near future.

It is perhaps worth mentioning at this point that the output per man shift at the collieries has shown a sharp increase since the first of the redundant miners were retired. In November 1958 production was at the rate of 30.98 hundredweight of coal per man shift, but at the end of April this year it had reached 34.94 hundredweight per man shift. I am also informed that in spite of the intervening holiday period the rate of production for July is expected to be very similar.

In all these difficulties, the Minister has had complete confidence in the Board of the Coal Corporation who have throughout this difficult period done all they could to ensure the wellbeing of the coal industry. My Minister now proposes to arrange for an inquiry into the coal industry and intends at the earliest opportunity to consult the Board of the Coal Corporation on the terms of reference within which the inquiry will be conducted. In this connection, Members will recall that the International Bank Mission after recommending that a detailed time-cost study of all the operations of the coal mines should be undertaken, said that:—

“ . . . with the development of other fuels the coal industry can survive only by improving efficiency and lowering production costs.”

Sir, in February last, I said in this House that the Government was doing all it could to find possible new uses for coal and in consultation with the Government of the Eastern Region was considering the best means of carrying out research into possible future uses. I also mentioned that the Government had received a copy of a report by Mr Howard Renken, a United Nations metallurgist, on the establishment of an iron and steel industry



[M. I. S. USMAN]

in Nigeria. I regret that it is not possible at this stage to publish the report since authority for so doing has not yet been received from the United Nations, to whom the report was made, but copies are in the hands of all the Regional Governments who are considering what further steps might be taken.

In conclusion, I should like to touch briefly on the financial aspect of reduced coal production as it affects the Eastern Regional Government. When one considers the sharply increasing rate of oil exports from the Region, it is unlikely that the revenue of the East will suffer as a result of the declining consumption of coal and the consequent decrease in coal royalty. In the current financial year the total revenue from coal royalty is estimated at £200,000 out of which £118,600 will accrue to the Eastern Region. Oil is being produced in the Eastern Region at present at the rate of about 10,000 barrels per day and next year Shell-B.P. Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited expect that figure to be increased to 30,000 barrels per day. Although a firm calculation of royalty based on those figures is difficult since the assessment is now made on an *ad valorem* basis it is estimated that royalty during the current year will reach £170,000, during 1960-61 £670,000, and in the following year £1,250,000, the largest share of which in accordance with the report of the Fiscal Commission will accrue to the Eastern Region.

In addition to the royalty, the Eastern Region receives revenue from rents and there can be little doubt that the total revenue which will accrue to the Eastern Region will be considerably in excess of the amount which the Region will receive from the coal industry.

In view of the facts which I have just outlined, I wish to propose that the Motion should be amended as follows:—

Leave out from "House" in line 2 to end and add—"takes note of the decision of both the Electricity Corporation and the Railway Corporation to use diesel oil in preference to coal wherever economies can be effected by so doing, and believes that such a course is in the best interests of the economy of the Federation as a whole".

The amended Motion will then read as follows:—

"That this House takes note of the decision of both the Electricity Corporation and the Railway Corporation to use diesel oil in preference to coal wherever economies can be effected by so doing, and believes that such a course is in the best interests of the economy of the Federation as a whole".

Mr Speaker, I beg to move this Amendment.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport** (Mr F. E. Offor): Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu): I just have a very brief contribution to make to this Motion. We have heard all that the Junior Minister has to say in this matter. Nobody is doubting that it is more economical to use diesel oil, and later on we have to go from diesel to electricity.

**An hon. Member**: Don't use this in campaigning.

**Dr Mbadiwe**: We have no interest in using this in our campaign. That does not matter. What we are saying is you mentioned that the Minister is planning to set up a Committee of Inquiry but he did not tell us the object of the inquiry. That could have stopped the debate. If it is an inquiry to see how many people are displaced and what effort will be made between the Governments and the Corporation to see about their welfare, then this Motion is accepted *in toto* and it requires no debate.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power**: The Government intends at an early opportunity to consult the Board of Coal Corporation.

**Dr Mbadiwe**: That should not have come before the House. We do not want the intangible. This is an hon. House where we take decisions and give directives. We do not build hopes and aspirations on Utopia. We are only interested in the living persons. What is important is that we cannot leave 3,000 people being displaced and more will be displaced and left out in the coal. Is it their fault that we are changing from one system to another? It is not their fault. Are they responsible for the change? They are willing



to work and they have been giving the best of their lives. When we make progress we say we kick you out, we do not want you. That is not for a Government of this nature—a religious Government, headed by religious people.

What I am suggesting, Sir, is that since Government has not decided on the terms of reference, the Minister should give directions, among other things, that the enquiry should find out the best way that those people who are now being displaced could be better employed, or in the alternative, what could be done for them. Once that is put in, I think, Mr Speaker, that the Minister cannot do more. I hope that that will be incorporated in the terms of reference of the enquiry, and I beg to support.

**Mr D. N. Chukwu** (Awgu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion, as amended, but I have to say here that the members of the Coal Corporation Board have a case to answer. (*Hear, hear.*) As far back as 1957 a representation was made before this honourable House that the use of diesel is more economical than coal. If we knew at that time we would have objected and asked for a commission of enquiry. But what happened is that the Coal Corporation Board allowed over 3,000 people to be employed between 1957 and 1958. I think, Sir, that they have a case to answer and we must issue a note of warning on that account to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power.

The Chairman of the Railway Corporation is an *ex officio* member of the Coal Corporation Board, so that the Chairman of the Railway Corporation could easily advise the Coal Corporation Board on the technical points that they have in mind about the economy of running costs for the benefit of both the Railway Corporation and the Coal Corporation. That is why I say that this House must ask the members of the Coal Corporation Board...

**An hon. Member** : To resign.

**Mr Chukwu** : Really they have thrown the whole situation into a confusion. We do not come here to campaign, we must take the bull by the horns; and I wish to say, Sir, that unless the members of the Coal Corporation Board explain.....

**An hon. Member** . Ask Ojukwu; he is the Chairman.

**Mr Chukwu** : No, Ojukwu is not the Chairman of the Coal Corporation Board. He is just one of the Members. Sir, I would say that I support this Motion as amended, but I would say that the Coal Corporation Board members have a case to answer.

*The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) 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 from "House" in line 2 to the end of the Question, be left out, put and agreed to.*

Question, That "takes note of the decision of both the Electricity Corporation and the Railway Corporation to use diesel oil in preference to coal wherever economies can be effected by so doing, and believes that such a course is in the best interests of the economy of the Federation as a whole.", be there added, put and agreed to.

*Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That this House takes note of the decision of both the Electricity Corporation and the Railway Corporation to use diesel oil in preference to coal wherever economies can be effected by so doing, and believes that such a course is in the best interests of the economy of the Federation as a whole.

*And it being 5.45 p.m., Mr Speaker interrupted the proceedings, pursuant to Standing Orders.*

**Mr Speaker** : The time for opposed business, of course, is now finished, but unopposed Motions may be taken if the Minister of Finance wishes.

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) Order, 1959 (Legal Notice No. 84 of 1959), (copy laid before the House, 6th August) *confirmed*—(The Minister of Finance).

#### EXCISE DUTIES

Excise Duties (Amendment) Order, 1959 (Legal Notice No. 79 of 1959), (copy laid before the House, 6th August) *confirmed*—(The Minister of Finance).



## CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1959 (Legal Notice No. 157 of 1959), (copy laid before the House, 6th August) *confirmed*—(The Minister of Finance).

## CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)

Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 3) Order, 1959 (Legal Notice No. 158 of 1959), (copy laid before the House, 6th August) *confirmed*—(The Minister of Finance).

## EXCISE DUTIES

Excise Duties (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1959 (Legal Notice No. 159 of 1959), (copy laid before the House, 6th August) *confirmed*—(The Minister of Finance).

## PRODUCE INSPECTION

Produce Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 132 of 1958), (copy laid before the House, 5th August) *approved*—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

## PRODUCE INSPECTION

Palm Produce (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice, No. 133 of 1958), (copy laid before the House, 5th August) *approved*—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

## PRODUCE INSPECTION

Cotton (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 134 of 1958), (copy laid before the House, 5th August) *approved*—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

## PRODUCE INSPECTION

Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 135 of 1958), (copy laid before the House, 5th August) *approved*—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

## PRODUCE INSPECTION

Cocoa (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 136 of 1958), (copy laid before the House, 5th August) *approved*—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

## ADJOURNMENT

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

**Oba Aiyeola Afolu II** (Ijebu Remo): Mr Speaker, on the Motion for the adjournment I would like to mention a matter which will be of special interest to Members of this House. Mr Speaker, there was a hand-out which appeared in the Press last week to the effect that the bridge on mile 42 on the Lagos-Ibadan road will be closed to traffic for twenty-four hours on Sunday, August the 16th of this month.

I think Members will agree that at this time, when the House is meeting, it would be a most unwise step to close the bridge to traffic. It is even more unreasonable for the bridge to be closed to traffic on a week-end, Saturdays and Sundays are not the ideal time to close the bridge to traffic.

Mr Speaker, Members will realise that this bridge was broken when an E.C.N. contractor, due to no fault of his, was cutting a tree in order to give way for the fixing of an electric pole. There was a heavy wind which blew and the tree fell on the bridge and the bridge collapsed. But, Mr Speaker, thanks to modern engineering ingenuity, work started on this bridge, and in the course of a few days there was a Bailey bridge, and so the traffic jam was cleared.

Mr Speaker, I should like to have an assurance from the Minister that the bridge will not be closed to traffic during the sitting of this House; and that it will not be done on a week-end, and that when it is time for the bridge to be closed to traffic there should be a diversion.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys** (M. Usman Sarki): Mr Speaker, this bridge is required to be closed for one day only in order that the bailey bridge on top of the proper bridge which has been repaired may be removed. In any case this work is now going to be deferred for another week.

**M. Mormoni Bazza** (North Adamawa Trust Territory): Mr Speaker, I would like to have an assurance from the Government as to what steps, if any, they have taken to protect the interests of the people of the Northern Cameroons as regards (a) the fighting in the French Cameroons, which is on the border



*House of Representatives Debates*

1793

[*Terrorism in*

11 AUGUST 1959

*French Cameroons*]

1794

with Nigeria, and, (b) as to the forthcoming plebiscite to decide the future of the Northern Cameroons.

Mr Speaker, as regards (a), I understand from those who go there that the fighting in the Northern Cameroons is gaining momentum and many people believe, Sir, that this fighting is being inspired by some communists. The people responsible for the fighting, as I understand, are near the Nigerian border, close to Adamawa Province from where I came. Sir, this fighting is likely to spread into Nigeria and that is why I raise the question.

**Mr Speaker :** A Member wishing to raise a matter on the adjournment must give at least half the time to the Minister to reply.

**The Prime Minister :** The hon. Member, Sir, sought permission from me to raise the matter, but it appears that he has not yet even developed his argument. May I ask him to raise it some other time, Sir. (*Hear, hear.*)

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn.  
*Adjourned accordingly at one minute to six o'clock.*



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## NIGERIA

Wednesday, 12th August, 1959

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** I have to announce the following paper already distributed to Members is deemed to have been laid on the Table :

Report of an Inquiry by Mr R. N. Rapson, M.V.O., into alleged irregularities by the Lagos Town Council in connection with the collection of money and the issue of permits and the allocation of market stalls in respect of proposed temporary markets at Ereko and Oko-Awo.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## ROADS

## Ilorin-Kabba Road

\*O.201. **Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he is aware that the portion of Trunk Road A.13 between miles 46 and 49 on the Ilorin-Kabba road is so bad as to constitute a death trap to road users, and whether he will cause immediate improvements to be made there by straightening the bends and levelling the slopes.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Surveys :** I am not aware that the road section referred to is as bad as the hon. Member suggests but I shall indeed look into his complaint. I have asked for a report and I shall see what improvements can be made within the limit of the funds available.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1959-60)

BILL [FIRST ALLOTTED DAY] : CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(House in Committee)

**The Chairman :** Under the Standing Orders the Clauses of the Bill stand postponed until after consideration of the Schedule.

I am very sorry that the Order Paper has gone wrong in the printing : none of the amend-

ments put down for Heads in the Supplementary Estimates down to Head 38 which we have to finish to-day has got on to to-day's Order Paper. They were all on the Order Paper of Monday. I have a copy of it and I hope hon. Members will be able to get copies of the Order Paper for Monday if they are available.

## HEAD 21.—GOVERNOR-GENERAL

£10 for Head 21—Governor-General—agreed to.

## HEAD 22.—OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Question proposed, That £4,300 for Head 22—Office of the Governor-General and Council of Ministers—stand part of the Schedule.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu** (Awka) : Mr Chairman, I would like to comment on this Head. We all know the importance of the office of the Governor-General and of his personality in the country as the representative of. . .

**The Chairman :** This is his Office not his staff.

**Mr Mbakogu :** Last April the Governor-General made a country-wide tour of the Eastern Region. There is a provision here for two Senior Assistant Secretaries. I do not know actually what the numerous Secretaries in the Office of the Governor-General do when they cannot see that the tours of the Governor-General are highly publicised in every corner of the country where the Governor-General goes. Last April the Governor-General visited my place but the numerous Secretaries could not inform anyone, with the result that the visit was dull. A great many people would have turned out. It was a great mistake that I was not told that the Governor-General would visit my constituency. I do not know how the clerks do their work but personally I would have been the person to organise the reception for the Governor-General.

My people have never seen the Queen and many of them may not see her any time, so that it is the Governor-General who is nearer to them they will see from time to time. There has not been a case of the Governor-General visiting my constituency except this year. So this time he proposed to visit my people it should have been brought to the notice of everybody. If I had been told nothing would



have debarred the people, men, women and children, from seeing the person who is the representative of the Queen in Nigeria. My people, district councils, and unions would have had a personal chance of meeting the Governor-General and of presenting their requests directly to him so that the Governor-General will hear from the horse's mouth the demand of the people which we make here from time to time in this House.

Yesterday there was a question on the Aguata Post Office. The Governor-General was shown the Post Office but he could not hear from the Union that was concerned. I am appealing to the officers in the Governor-General's Office to see to it that whenever the Governor-General is touring the country it should be brought to the notice of every person in the constituency or division.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Chairman, I wish to raise under this Head the question of the selection of the National Anthem by the Council of Ministers. I take this opportunity to congratulate the successful entrant, Miss Williams. The Council of Ministers could not have done better than they have done. But I wish to observe that in verse 2, the second stanza of the Anthem.

**The Chairman**: I do not think that the several stanzas of the National Anthem or even the work itself was chosen by the Senior Assistant Secretary or by the Typist or Motor Driver who are the people to get this additional sum of money. I do not think they are in the Estimate.

*Question, That £4,300 for Head 22.—Office of the Governor-General and the Council of Ministers—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 23.—MILITARY

*Question proposed, That £178,840 for Head 23.—Military—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa** (North East Central Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name, namely to reduce sub-head 9 by £10. Mr Chairman, I am only doing my possible best to draw the Government's attention that there is urgent need that the cloth weaving industry in Nigeria must be subsidised at the initial stage,

as is done the world over. This is self-evident, as said by the Minister of Finance in his speech—as is done in India. (*Interruption*).

I am coming to the point, Mr Chairman. I want to introduce my argument so that I can convince the Council of Ministers to do something about the industries in Nigeria. Clothing. I am talking about clothing—the Military authorities buying clothing from somewhere else. Trade generally is very bad in the country and will continue to grow from bad to worse until the Government is prepared to look into the trade complaint with some degree of activity not from the official expert's view. Trade, as we know, in this country is run by foreign concerns—and very big foreign concerns too. The country must be allowed to participate in trade if we want to stand the economy of the country. Everyone of you here I am sure will agree with me, that trade in Nigeria is in great distress. But what proof does the Government require to speed up the industrialisation of the Country? The Government can do this in so many ways.

The first, and the easiest, is not to put an indent to the Crown Agents for anything which is produced in this country. By that, the Government can stop the process which officials are using at the moment to prevent things that are produced here being bought by the Government.

It is surprising to hear that most of the cloth that the Crown Agents are buying in Lancashire is not actually produced there, but imported from Japan and slightly finished in the United Kingdom. This is a very bad thing. If the Crown Agents can purchase material from Japan and tell the Government that it is produced in the United Kingdom that is a very serious thing. And I am sure that the Government can try to find out what I am saying. I can prove that, if these cloths which the Government are buying from the United Kingdom are really produced in the United Kingdom, then it will be dearer than what is produced here.

The second point is that cloth weaving is at present a pioneer industry. But I can tell you that a factory somewhere else in Nigeria applied to the Department of Commerce and Industry for a Pioneer Certificate for almost two years now, but has not yet got an answer



[ALHAJI DANBAPPA]

from that Department. And that is being done deliberately to prevent this factory from selling what it produces to the Federal Government, because the initial cost of the product of this factory is somewhat higher than the one that the Crown Agents are buying. But if it gets this Pioneer Certificate it can get some concessions from the Government and thereby reduce its cost of production. That is simple. But the Department of Commerce and Industry has not seen it fit to give this Certificate to this factory in Nigeria and . . . . .

**Mr Chairman :** Is this complaint against the Military Forces or against Commerce and Industries ?

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa :** Both, Sir, I do not want the Military Forces to buy cloth from somewhere else if we can produce the same khaki which is purchased from the Crown Agents. That is my argument. It is quite simple that I can not get up and say I want Government to do these things without any proof. I must prove to the Government that I know what I am talking about.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope you will give me time, I do not want to say so many things. But the Department of Commerce and Industry refused this Pioneer Certificate. What I see is that the officials are, some of them, not prepared to help industries in Nigeria. I am not condemning all of the officials of the Government, but some are somewhat not co-operating. There are some that are good ones and there are some that we ought to send away as soon as we possibly can. There is a deliberate attempt on the part of the officials to kill the initiative of the people of this country. I am appealing to the Government to help trade. The Government can also make provision to subsidise all the Nigerian Industries and create a very favourable market condition for them. What I am trying now to say is that there is a growing need for cloth woven in the country. And if Government can encourage people to buy this cloth woven in the country, I think they will be doing more to help the country.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) :** Point of order. This is an excellent subject that can best be discussed under Commerce and Industries.

**Alhaji Baba Dambappa :** Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed, to reduce sub-head 9 by £10.*

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) :** Mr Chairman, I wish to make a general remark about this Head. What I want to say, Sir, is particularly about the revote.

**The Chairman :** Sub-head 9 is Clothing and Accoutrement.

**Mr Ubani-Ukoma :** Well I thought that we might make a general remark on this to save time.

**The Chairman :** No Member can speak to this amendment unless he confines himself to Military Clothing and Accoutrement.

**The Prime Minister :** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Chairman, no doubt all hon. Members of the House are aware of the Federal Government's instructions to all Departments that whenever they make purchases of this kind they should first look locally for these things and where the locally manufactured articles compare favourably with imported articles, they should buy locally. I have no doubt that hon. Members know of this.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** (Aba) : On the Prime Minister's remark, Sir, I want to say most humbly that with a young indigenous industry just starting it will be very difficult to have the prices compare favourably with the imported goods of the same quality. I am asking that the Government should have special consideration for these locally manufactured products, because for about five or ten years it will be impossible for them to have competitive prices.

Knowing the practice of the foreign companies as we do, if they find that the local companies are going to compete with them they under-sell. It has happened in India and other places and I want the Government to have a special quota, if nothing else, as a sort of encouragement to local industries. If they find it is not possible on the grounds of economy to buy the whole thing from them, at least on grounds of national consideration a special quota should be allotted to such industries that produce such materials.

**The Prime Minister :** The hon. Member is not suggesting that we should clad members of the military forces in clothing which are of poor quality because then, Sir, it will be hard upon the taxpayer. I am sure that the hon.



Member will not like the Government to adopt such a measure. Where the quality compares favourably with that of imported articles we shall buy locally.

**Mr E. C. Akwiwu** (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to add very few remarks on this question of comparative quality. Nobody would doubt at all the wisdom of the statement of the Prime Minister, but from practical experience, we know sir, that in a new industrial enterprise costs are usually high and if special contracts of guaranteed quotas or agreed prices are given, in view of the high costs, that will make the production of high quality material in the first instance possible. If we do not do that, we will get no where. With all the subsidised importations from Japan and other well advanced countries, it is very difficult if not impossible for any textile factory to exist in this country to-day, and at the present state of our development to produce anything of comparable quality at comparable prices.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on this particular Head I have been prompted to get up to speak because of the explanation that we have just heard from our respected Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has given us explanation. It is true that Government has passed instructions to the various departments that on no account should they buy from a foreign firm if there is material available here in the country. That is true and I know very well some sort of special arrangement has been made whereby if there is any tender for a particular contract for the supply of materials, preference should be given to a Nigerian manufacturer, even if the difference between the Nigerian manufacturer and the foreign firm is great, even if the difference does not exceed ten per cent, then the contract goes to the local manufacturer. That is all very well, but then sometimes these people come round and say: "Well although we are asked to encourage the indigenous manufacturers you must understand this and that," and they bring all sorts of reasons that will make you convinced that after all it is not good to buy these locally manufactured goods. So we are asking that special consideration should be made so that the Kano Textiles for example, the Kano Citizens Trading Company and other companies in the country that are producing these clothes should be encouraged.

It is practically impossible for these local industries to be able to compete with the foreign firms that have got these things in abundance, that have got a lot of money at their disposal. Unless some special arrangement is made by the Government whereby these local industries can be helped, I do not think that our local industries will be helped at all. So I respectfully say that the Prime Minister and the Government have done very well indeed by passing this instruction to various departments, but what we are saying is that they do not make use of these instructions in some cases and we want them to do so. They are making use of this advantage to the detriment of this nation and I respectfully say this to the Prime Minister and I am reporting those officials to the Prime Minister.

**Alhaji Bello Dandago** (South West Central Kano): Mr Chairman Sir, what really baffles many people, and I am one of them, is that in the past we used to see things "*Made in England*" now we see "*Finished in England*"! What is the difference? "*Finished in England*"! So it was started somewhere, and so Mr Chairman, Sir, it adds to the dignity of the country to put on Nigerian clothes and some of the stuff we produce, Sir, is not inferior in any way to what is finished in England.

**Mr H. O. Chuku** (Bende): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Government had adopted the policy of assisting local industries. There is no other way in which they can be encouraged other than for Government to patronise in any way possible these local industries. If our Government does not set the example of patronising our local industries, I do not see how individuals can patronise these companies. If our Government considers the product of these countries to be inferior, it gives encouragement to individuals not to patronise these industries. Therefore, I strongly support the idea of our Government patronising our local industries.

**Mr U. O. Ndem** (Calabar): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not think we should lay so much emphasis on the Government's support for these industries. How much after all of these locally manufactured things would be taken up by the Government? I have an example. Khaki is being manufactured by a certain local industrialist at Apapa. I inspected the factory last year and found that the whole shop was full



[MR NDEM]

of Khaki not taken up by either Government or by local traders. When I enquired I was told that the price of Khaki outside did not compare favourably, to the advantage of local industrialists, with the one manufactured at Apapa.

I was told that Government departments draw their supplies from that firm manufacturing Khaki at Apapa but then there is a limit that Government could draw from that source. The result is that so many thousands of yards of Khaki were left there untouched. What I suggest is that there should be preferential tariff introduced in this country so that it will be possible for locally manufactured articles to compete with imported articles. Unless we have some sort of encouragement for the local manufacturers, the costs of the production will be such that they cannot compete with imported materials.

I know that there is an arrangement whereby materials which are used for the manufacture of goods locally are given exemption from duty. Well, that is all right, but I think something more should be done in order to make it possible for locally manufactured goods to compete favourably in prices with the imported articles.

*Amendment put and negatived :*

**Mr M. A. Ajasin** (Owo South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that sub-head 23 be reduced by £10. I can observe that the Cadet Corps is to be expanded in some of the secondary schools from provision made here for more expenditure. I would like to say this, that this institution has passed the experimental stage now. At first it was attached to the King's College, the University College and one or two Government colleges as a sort of experiment, but now that the institution is going to be expanded in those colleges I think it should not be left there altogether; it is high time that this institution of Cadet Corps should be extended to voluntary agency secondary schools in the country. Many of the recognised voluntary agency secondary schools are working as hard as Government colleges if not better.

The Prime Minister at the meeting of August last year promised that he would give a report of the Cadet Corps which had been attached to these Government Colleges. I think this will be an opportune time for him now to give this

report as this is the last sitting of the present House. So, Mr Chairman, I ask humbly that the Prime Minister should kindly give his report and that the Government should consider the opening of Cadet Corps institution in recognised secondary schools in Nigeria apart from Government Colleges. Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed, to reduce sub-head 23 by £10.*

**The Prime Minister** : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am rising to oppose this amendment and I would like to say, Sir, whether I made a promise that I would inform the House about the formation of this Cadet Scheme in the different colleges in the country or not, that the suggestion made by the hon. Member is worth consideration by Government. All I would say, Sir, is that we would think of the possibility of extending such training to the other voluntary agency colleges in the country, but I want the House to know, Sir, that we might be limited on account of staff. But we will do what we can and I think this matter, Sir, will be recommended for consideration first by the Defence Council and then by the Council of Ministers.

**Mr R. T. Alege** (Kabba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that the idea of establishing a Cadet Corps in the Secondary schools is just to encourage our boys to join the army. But it seems that the Military authorities are using their influence to discourage students. For instance this year there were several students from the University College Ibadan who applied for the Officers course, they were not taken. I have some friends who actually applied some years ago but up till the present time they still continue to receive letters that they would be called upon later on. If these courses are to be useful to the students, I think that whenever they apply for admission into the army, they should be well considered. But out of seventy students applying sometimes you find that only two will be admitted, whereas when we need overseas officers we cannot hear that we cannot get people. I think, Sir, that the Prime Minister should see to it that our boys are encouraged to join the army.

**Mr J. Mboym** (Nkambe) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment and to make my observations on this sub-head. I notice the provision which the Federal Government have made for a new Cadet Force Unit at St.



Joseph's College, Buea. This can only serve its purpose if Mr Foncha will stop advocating for secession from Nigeria. Otherwise I can see no means by which the Southern Cameroons can rest assured of any internal and external security without the establishment of a full military force in the Southern Cameroons. If Mr Foncha is advocating this secession from Nigeria and a continuation under a modified Trusteeship Agreement, then it is high time he should establish a military force for the Southern Cameroons worthy of being a nation.

Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the important reasons why the K.N.C. and K.P.P. alliance advocate continued association with the Federation of Nigeria is that the Southern Cameroons, with the small population of  $\frac{3}{4}$  million, cannot build a strong army for its security, no matter whether the territory will be economically viable or not. Its position is at the mercy of the French Cameroons or Nigeria in the event of war. As the territory is not able to produce a strong army Mr Foncha must think twice.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, in opposing the amendment, I would like the Government to be very careful how they distribute these cadet forces into the hands of organisations having different religious beliefs. We owe allegiance to the Crown and loyalty to Nigeria, and I would like care to be taken that no students are indoctrinated in one form of religion or another. There seems to be different religious organisations, which have territorial ambition in Nigeria, and all I am concerned with is that if we spend money to build up an army, that army should owe special allegiance to this country and not to any religious organisation.

Secondly, I would wish that our boys in secondary schools be encouraged to enter into these cadet forces. There are many boys in the secondary schools who are very anxious to be taken into the army, but I do not know whether the army authorities are anxious to take them. We would love to get our boys trained in large numbers. As a matter of fact I am disappointed because the amount voted is not enough. I would like this recruitment to be accelerated so as to have many boys recruited into the army. We have a challenge staring us in the face, and I am sure if we had been prepared five or six years ago, we might

be able to speak with a certain degree of authority. We should encourage the department to be able to stand on its own feet. We should not only send these cadets into Nigerian schools, but we should recruit Nigerians of university standard to England and to other parts of the world so that we might be able to get our own officers and train them as quickly as possible. We all might even volunteer to enter into these military schools so that we might be able to serve ourselves and not to come here and fight for political position. The time has come when we should show ourselves, the leaders of this country, not only by word of mouth but by action so that we might prove true leaders not only by speaking but by action.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move to reduce the whole Head by £10.

Now that this House is coming to an end, I would like generally to speak on the position of the army. First of all I would like to speak especially on the question of Boys' Companies. The other day I asked a question from the Floor of this House and wanted to know what progress has been made in the question of Boys' Company in this country. I asked to know the number of boys from the Western Region that has been admitted into the Boys' Company Training School at Zaria, and I was told 43. Out of the population of about 6 million people, and I would say about a population of at least 2 million boys in the Western Region, only 43 of them have been attracted to join the Boys' Company. I think the aim of the Boys' Company is to train young men for a future career in the army. No country that is worth its salt can survive without a very strong defence. To-day we are talking of independence. An independent Nigeria will have a very strong army because there is no country without territorial ambition. Here we are.

The French Government want to test an Atom Bomb in the Sahara and you were crying yesterday. But if we have a very strong army and we make our people interested in an army career, this country will be respected outside.

I say, Sir, that there is not much publicity given to informing the public of the uses of this Boys' Centre at Zaria. I am saying that the



[MR ADEYINKA]

Federal Information Service should make it a point of duty to publicise it to all the villages so that the parents will be educated as to the need for attracting young men into this Boys' Company at Zaria. I understand, Sir, that initially boys, for instance in the Western Regions—we have primary VI students who cannot even compare with other primary VI students in other Regions, and they are being denied employment because of their lack of sound educational background. If these boys are being admitted into the Boys' Company, not only would they be trained in military exercises, they will also be trained in the educational department of it. In Zaria these young soldiers are being trained in order to fit them for training in higher posts in the military service. Some of them have further training to enable them to go to Sandhurst.

Another point is this. When the Prime Minister was speaking on the question of army cadet forces, I recalled what I said last year. Last year I raised the matter that I would like to have a comprehensive report on the progress that has been made in the establishment of army cadet forces, attached to secondary schools. I was happy to note, Sir, that the Prime Minister did make a promise that he would issue such a report. If the Prime Minister would refer to the debate of last year, Sir, I think he will agree with me that he did make such a promise. Now that it has been made, it is necessary that it should be fulfilled. Not only that these army cadet forces should be established in Government secondary schools, they should also be established in approved secondary schools. We have seen the progress made but we cannot know about this progress unless we have reports. We should have reports from the existing secondary schools about the progress being made and it is the work of the Federal Information Service to publicise it. That will also encourage some of our students to be interested in army cadet training.

I would also like to know something about promotions in the rank and file of the Military Department. I asked a question to know from the Prime Minister why it is not necessary now that Quartermaster Sergeants in the military service should have direct promotion to the officer rank. Those who are fit should be allowed promotion direct to the officer rank

because that actually obtains in the case of expatriate Quartermasters because in the army, it is not necessary all the time to send these people for further courses. They are always promoted direct. There are Quartermasters with long service experience in the army who are suitable for promotion to the officer grade. I am appealing that promotional opportunities should be extended to the Quartermasters instead of sending them for further training.

One other aspect of it is this. The other time I was stressing the need for our African officers to be encouraged because now in the Police Force, the Government has introduced a policy where you have supernumerary posts. This has been done in order that our African officers may be able to fit in in the superscale grades of the civil service. I would like this to be extended to the military service for our African officers, because I do not think that for a long time after this country has become independent there will be a time that we shall have an African at the head of the army. We cannot get this overnight. The training must start now. They should be sent for further training that will equip them for higher posts in the Military Department. It is not a department that somebody will serve to-day and rise to the highest grade tomorrow. It takes a long time to train a very good Commandant that will head the Nigerian Military Forces. But we cannot wait for a long time. It is at this initial stage that we should select people from among the officers now serving for further training. We know Major Aguiyi Ironsi, he has just been out of the Staff College and he is now posted to the Battalion. You know when the Duke of Gloucester visited this country, during the parade at the Racecourse, he was the Commandant who commanded the Guard-of-Honour which welcomed the Royal visitors at the ceremony. This shows that if this man has more training, in the course of years to come there is no doubt that he will be able to head our Forces. It is not only Aguiyi Ironsi, but some other Africans should be encouraged to train to fit them for higher posts in the army.

I now, come to the civilians working under the Military Department. The other time, Sir, in the last Budget Meeting, I raised the question of the service conditions of these African civilian workers in the military department. All of them are still on temporary



appointment. I would like the service of these civilian employees to be made permanent so that they may have the avenue of promotion and the avenue of pension scheme and some other rights as in the civil service. As it stands now if any army military servant puts in long years of service, because of the temporary nature of his appointment he is not entitled to any benefits in the department. I understand that there are some more expatriate officers that are being imported into this country, especially in the Command Workshop. Every time they import expatriate sergeants to come and do the work for which there are qualified Africans. Unless where you cannot find an African to do the job, an expatriate should not be engaged. I hope the Prime Minister, being an able Prime Minister and somebody who is interested in the army, will encourage the existing army personnel.

We say, soldier, soldier, but we do not know the meaning and nobody would like to become a soldier himself. I know there will be a time in this country when we shall have a national service, so that no country, as I said earlier, Sir, without a strong defence can be respected. I would like to say that there will be a time when everybody in this country will be a soldier, that it will be a career on the part of the student when everybody must go in for training. I know in Switzerland everybody is a soldier himself. I would like to see that type of thing in this country.

I would like to see National Service introduced. We have to build up a very strong military force. With these few remarks, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed, to reduce the Head by £10.*

**Mr. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (South West Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment before the House and to support wholeheartedly the expenditure under this Head. In the first place I should like to congratulate the Prime Minister who is answerable to the House for the wonderful accomplishment that has taken place in our Military Force. The Nigerian Military Force is much stronger than it was and as we march forward to independence we hope to have still stronger force capable of defending this country against any attack. I know that we shall go with the

Commonwealth but nevertheless we shall have to build our own force. The strength of any country is judged by the strength of its defence. Only yesterday, we protested against the testing of the atomic bomb in the Sahara. If we had our own bomb, the French would not have dared to suggest the testing of the bomb and it is the strength of Britain and the United States that saved the free world from the attack of the Soviet Union. Had there been an atomic bomb fifty years ago the world revolution of 1917 would not have taken place. That is why the Soviet Union took over the many countries now known as the Russian satellites. It is therefore very essential that we build our own force. No amount of money voted, therefore, will be too great for our defence.

There are other points I would also like to make, Mr Chairman. The time for the Military Recruitment Team to visit the Northern Region is long overdue. This team should undertake an extensive tour of the Northern Region with a view to recruiting northerners into the army. We need more northerners in our Army and there are many who want to come forward for military career. So, I hope that our Prime Minister will see to it that this team is sent out immediately and that we should implore this team not to regard bilharzia as a disease that will disqualify our people. It has been proved that bilharzia is an easily curable disease.

Another point I want to make is that the units of our army should tour the whole country occasionally in order to acquaint themselves with the people. We feel that the time has come that our soldiers should not be so much secluded. They should get to know the leaders of the country, and meet the people. This is very important as independence draws nearer. The people of this country will like this and they will be satisfied. This type of tour will again go a long way towards checking irresponsible attitude and hooliganism. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr C. O. Komolafe** (Ilesha): I rise to oppose the amendment and in doing so I would like to say that although we do not advocate war, nobody wants war, but no country is worth its salt if it is an independent country without a respected army or military sovereign force. Up to now the military force that we have is one that is only good for



[MR KOMOLAFE]

ceremonial occasions but I feel that from now on, especially now that we have our minds fixed on independence, we should have a complete re-orientation of our military force.

In the first place, I think it is time that our Government should make all efforts to popularise military career in this country by going out to all the Regions or make a sort of propaganda machinery by which a military career could be introduced into all the Regions and make the people like and understand it. In the past we had the illiterates, the unemployed people who had nothing to do rushing into the army for a means of livelihood. But the present day army or the military force in the country require literate men, people who can understand the mechanisation of the army; when machines of all types are put into their hands, they will be able to know how to manipulate them. As such it is necessary that we begin to encourage our educated fellows to join the Army. I do not agree that we should appeal to university graduates only to join the army, and I do not agree with the previous speaker who said that Primary Six boys in the Western Region will not be able to do well in the Army. I feel.....

**An hon. Member :** Point of Order Mr Chairman, he did not say so.

**The Chairman :** Order, order.

**Mr Adeyinka :** I never said that Primary Six boys will not do well. I said that the type of training, I emphasised training. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** Order, that is not a point of Order, it is a point of explanation.

**Mr Komolafe :** I am sorry, Mr Chairman. I misunderstood my hon. Friend.

Another point which I want to make about military career in this country is that this country is composed of different tribes. Apparently it has been divided into Regions. If members of one particular Region are preponderant in the Army it is courting danger for the future of this country. If we want a balanced army or an army where you have people from all the different regions to be balanced then encouragement should be given to all the Regions. So that if you encourage the educated elements in the Western Region, you go to the East and encourage the educated elements and proceed to the North to encourage

the educated elements, in the end we get a sort of balanced situation in the Military force. Of course, nobody expects something that happened in the Sudan some time last year to happen in this country at any time in the future, but I feel that if we do not want such a thing to happen in this country we should begin to make way for it right from now by encouraging people to join the Army. Well some people feel that I am saying that you have to popularise the Army.....

**An hon. Member :** Popularise the Army in your school.

**Mr Komolafe :** But the fact is that my school is a voluntary agency school and we have got to be encouraged by the Government. You heard what somebody said this morning. One funny thing about this country is that Government institutions are always given priority and when they have been given priority I say that the priority should be a sort of experiment to be followed by other voluntary agency schools. When we introduce Cadet Corps in a Government institution, you have to encourage other institutions in the country so that the boys will know what it is to join the army, the meaning of the military career, and know that it is not just somebody who is unemployed or illiterate that is good enough for the army but the educated man even a university graduate, is good enough for the army. I have to say, however, that our people have not realised this. They look down on soldiers and run away from them but if the Government makes all efforts to encourage this career I am sure our boys will respond sufficiently well.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) :** I merely wish to underline the point made by Mr Komolafe in the matter of recruitment. He mentioned the preponderance of one particular section against another but I want to point out to Members here some facts that came to us in the course of investigation of the different departments of Government.

The thing is this ; where one particular tribe or section is predominant it is not necessarily the fault of that tribe. You see, it has been found difficult to promote officers or people to superior positions from the ranks simply because the people who are accepted in the lower rungs of the ladder, are people who are incapable of further progress in the department.



[CHIEF SOLARU]

It seems to me through some inadvertence, people who do the recruitment do not have their eyes on the day when superior officers, whether in the Army or not, would come from the rank and file. They say you cannot inject superior officers into this department. Where are they to come from, when you recruit illiterates and you do not encourage educated people? It happens in the Army, it happens in the Police.

It is time now you encourage educated people to come into the Army and you give them adequate training and adequate conditions. That is what is responsible. When you find Idomas in the Army they know that their type will never reach the officer's grade in the Army because they have not the background. Therefore non-commissioned officers will continue to come from Great Britain. Let us face the fact; it is not because one section is being promoted against the other, it is because of some policy which does not encourage people from the lower ranks to rise to the higher ranks. Therefore I would like Members to view it from that angle. We want every section of this country in our services but we want the best sections to be encouraged also.

**Mr R. T. Alege (Kabba):** We cannot understand how the Army is being run in this country, but I want to confine myself to the transport unit. There is a section there called the Water Transport Section. This section has two water transports of which one is allocated to the General who is the Officer Commanding and the other one is being used for recreational purposes. The Officers of the B.N.C.O. use this at a minimum charge resulting in the country maintaining this car at a loss. This must stop.

The next point is connected with the wives of the B.N.C.Os using army transport for unofficial purposes, whereas this country spends a lot of money for maintaining the transport. If transport is not otherwise very useful to the Army it should be transferred to the Nigerian Navy. Furthermore, Sir, these officers have their own transport; they have their personal cars but they will never use them. They prefer to use Military vehicles in going shopping and going to hotels in the night in order to lower the running cost of their cars. It is not only this point that is annoying; Military drivers have had to take them out and are kept

outside in the cold when they are in hotels and the soldiers have no time to move about or go anywhere. Their wives and children are left at home for unduly long periods. This type of treatment is bad.

Also we do not like how the African soldiers are addressed and this type of attitude does not encourage boys to enter the Army. So I think the Prime Minister should try to see that these soldiers are handled better and that the B.N.C.Os be more polite in addressing the African soldiers.

The next thing is about the civilians in the Army. There are about 1,500 of them. These men are on temporary basis and they are not entitled to anything. Sometimes when they ask for leave they are told, if you cannot accept what we give you you can go away. So the workers have formed themselves into a certain union and they have continued to press the Government. Even now N.C.Os are recruited from overseas to come and do their jobs. But these men will not do the job. They will ask the civilians to do it while they go shopping. They go to the Kingsway Stores. Besides, these men are being used as personal servants. The Prime Minister should try to tackle all these things. We do not want to make wild allegations but we who have been in the Army know these things.

I have also mentioned the question of white army children going to a particular school only. This is discrimination. If a school is established for soldiers we want the sons of the black soldiers to attend these schools as well. But if it is established for the whites alone I think we must have to oppose it. This is humiliation.

Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the amendment.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Speaker, Sir, my remarks will not be long. I just want to support my Friend, Chief T. T. Solaru, about the need to encourage people better educated under modern conditions to join the Army so that they will be able to have officers recruited not only from outside for training but also from the ranks. He has already given us an idea of the type of thing that happens.

Now, Sir, with regard to this question of preponderance of one section in the Army; I am afraid that it is not a thing which you can



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]

decide here or in the office. If we want one Nigeria you must take into consideration the special aptitude of a certain section of people. You will find extensions of the country where the people believe in the Army. I know that in the East we know those who belong to the military section. But there are certain sections where immediately you say "Ah" ! they run away. We know the section that are naturally inclined to the Army and this natural inclination must be allowed to develop. So that these people must be recruited into the Army as long as they come forward.

Then, Sir, my friend Mr Komolafe, who is the Principal of a School, spoke on Army Cadets. It is not necessary for him to wait for a Cadet Course to be established before he begins to lecture his students. After all, we have people leaving schools these days and going into the Army to make a career, if they are brilliant and can work hard. There is no need for him to wait for Government to establish a Cadet Course. We as members of this hon. House, public men, teachers and the rest of it, should help to encourage young people to think of these things so that when the Recruiting Officer comes round they will find people ready and willing to join the Army.

This is applicable to other branches of the Civil Service. Even to-day you find Companies going out to the University to campaign for them to join their firms whereas some departments are not interested. They go to the University College to find out who is likely to qualify and who is not, and before Government knows what is happening they have already taken out the best people. That is why the Federal Government is suffering to-day and that is why you find many of the boys joining the Shell-BP Petroleum Company and Mobil Oil. Sir, unless you tell the people that there is a career in the Army you will not get them.

Now, Sir, there is only one hazardous point it is *omnibus*, which I want to bring to the attention of the Prime Minister. I have this document and I have not had time to see the Prime Minister about it but I think it might be useful for me to call the attention of the Prime Minister to it. I do not know whether he has received it because copies were sent to the Prime Minister of the Federation, Chief

F. S. Okotie-Eboh, Minister of Finance, Mr T. O. S. Benson, Government Chief Whip, Mr J. M. Johnson, Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr R. N. Njoku, Minister of Transport, W.O.I. J. J. A. Brookes c/o Forces Secretary, N.M.F. Apapa and, of course, myself.

Now, Sir, perhaps it may be of value to read it and let the thing comment for itself. The point here, Sir, is that it alleges as follows :

"I take this opportunity to tell you what is going on in the Headquarters Southern Sub-District, Nigeria Military Forces, Apapa. A warrant officer, class II, J. J. A. Brookes, R.A.S.C. was employed last year as a chief clerk, since his arrival from the United Kingdom, with the salary of £1,920 per annum. He is not doing the work of a chief clerk, as he does not know the job like the former B.N.C.O. His job is being done by a Nigerian other rank holding the same rank with him. This warrant officer stays in the office to sell recreational Tarquah Bay tickets and managing the Sergeants' and Warrant Officers' Mess Bar. The African is employed to camouflage him. This so-called chief clerk was promoted to the rank of W.O.I. before he went on three months' leave in the U.K. In reality there is no establishment for the rank of W.O.I. in the Sub-District where he is employed. It appears all these people come to look for their daily bread in Nigeria. The worst part of it, he has a son who is working in one of the firms at Apapa with the salary of Forty-eight pounds (£48) a month, and he claims oversea family allowance from the Nigerian Government for his son who is working. He is being provided with type 'A' accommodation at 10 Child Avenue, Apapa. This employee is too old and cannot do the work of a young thinker. My leaders could see that it is a sheer waste of Nigerian Government revenue to bring this man again as his service is not promising. He is not a technician."

Now, these are the points : he signs himself as an observer. He did not put his name but the important thing is, is there a man living at No. 10 Child Avenue, Apapa who is employed as a chief clerk in this particular section on a salary of £1,920 and what is his educational background? Is it true that a Nigerian is doing that work and that this officer stays in the office to sell recreational Tarquah Bay tickets



and managing the Sergeants' and Warrant Officers' Mess Bar? I am saying this because some of us know that these things happen in the Army and Police Force and that these men do no productive work.

This is an opportunity for the Prime Minister to find out really whether a lot of people who are employed on a salary of £1,920 are really people who are to belong in that place. It is really necessary to find out whether the people who are receiving money are really doing productive work. That is all, Sir. And I want this to be investigated. That is why I have read this letter.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to answer some of the points raised by hon. Members. My hon. Friend Mr Adeyinka as an ex-soldier takes very great interest in our Military Forces and I have a word of gratitude for his contribution to the debates all the time on the Army Estimates. He spoke at great length about the Boys Company and said that it does not appear as if there is sufficient publicity about that training institution. Well, there is publicity about the Boys Company at Zaria and in reply to the question which he asked, the hon. Member could see that the pupils are drawn from the different parts of the Federation, but the only complaint is that only about forty of them come from the Western Region. This depends on the response of the young men from the Western Region.

The Boys Company, Sir, the House will be glad to know, is doing very well and we never thought from the beginning that the Boys Company would be able to produce potential officer-candidates. But I am glad to say, Sir, that from the Boys Company it appears that the Nigerian Military Force is likely to have many Army Officers (*Hear, hear*).

Apart from the Boys Company, Sir, the House is already aware also that we are at present building a Training Military School at Kaduna and that Military School, we hope, will train not only potential Army Officers but also those people who are in the rank and file—especially the type that my hon. Friend is speaking about. At present we have to send

our trainees to Teshe in Ghana to study there for 6 months after which they are sent to Sandhurst for further training; and now we hope when the school at Kaduna is opened in January next year there will be no more need to send our people for training at Teshe in Ghana. My hon. Friend Mr Adeyinka made many points but I do not think it is necessary for me to answer them all.

The hon. Sarkin Bai spoke of precluding Northerners in the Army and suggested that a Recruiting team should be sent round the Northern Region. Now that is exactly what is being done by the Army. They send a team not only to the Northern Region but also to the other Regions and even to the Southern Cameroons.

**Several hon. Members** : No.

**The Prime Minister** : We send to the Southern Cameroons because the Southern Cameroons is part of the Federation. If I may refer very briefly to the point made by one Cameroon Member, Mr Mboyam about Mr Foncha. I would say that he has the remedy in his hands: the remedy in his hands is to try and convince the people in the Southern Cameroons that their association with Nigeria is far better for them than their association with the French Cameroons.

My Friend Mr Komolafe suggested the re-orientation of our Military Forces in view of the constitutional position. Well, Nigeria assumed responsibility for its Military Forces on the 1st April, 1958, I think. The Military Forces are now our own Military Forces and we are doing everything we can to train our Army officers and also to give the Military Forces the best equipment that our resources can afford.

I entirely agree with him and also with my hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku, although they have somewhat conflicting views about the matter. The Federal Public Service and the Nigerian Military Forces should reflect the nature of the Federation. I do not like only one section of the Federation to be overwhelmingly dominating the other sections if it is possible, but at the same time, Sir, we want to have Nigerian Army officers and certain educational qualifications are required of such officers. Still, if people who present themselves to the Army from one section and they have the qualifications, what can Government



[THE PRIME MINISTER]  
do other than to accept them? The important thing is that I hope hon. Members will assist Government by trying to encourage young men in all sections of the Federation to make the Army their career.

I am grateful, Sir, to my hon. Friend Chief Solaru for his wise suggestion about these matters. He has explained the difficulty, how it is not possible now to promote people from the ranks to become officers in the Military Forces, because in the beginning recruitment was done without regard to educational qualification. This, I am glad to say, is really not the case now. What the Army is trying to do itself by providing these people with some education is helping a lot. Before very long we shall find that all in the rank and file in our Military Forces will be people who are really educated and people who would be in a position, if they have the necessary experience, to rise up.

Mr Alege spoke of the motor transport arrangement in the Military Forces. It is always the tradition in any Army, I think, that transport is provided by the Army to the officers. It is a much wiser thing to do, but simply because in Nigeria here we want to encourage young Nigerians to be in the Army, we in the Government have agreed that Nigerian officers in the Military Forces should be given an advance to purchase cars at the discretion of the Officer Commanding the Military Forces, because we find that they might leave the College or University at the same time as their colleagues who will be riding in their cars after joining Government service. If these people do not have the same facilities it might discourage them a bit. So we thought that it would be better if they are also given a chance to get an advance from the Government and purchase a car. But the best possible arrangement is for them to use military vehicles, and I would like to inform the House that this car advance to Army Officers is only confined to Nigerian officers in the Military Forces and not extended to the British Army Officers who are serving with our Military Forces.

I am afraid, Sir, that I do not agree with what my hon. Friend Mr Alege said that Army officers are using their civilian workers as their personal servants. I do not agree with the

suggestion, and I do not think that any Member of the House could agree with the suggestion, because here, Sir, many times in this House we have the case of these civilian workers in the Army being taken up by Members of the House. It shows that these people cannot at all tolerate such a thing, and they always come to Members and complain. Were they to be used as domestic servants by the Army Officers I am sure the Members of this House would have been flooded with petitions and letters.

My hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku has just read out a letter to the House and really I am very very sorry. I know, of course, he received this letter which I also received. It was a cowardly act by somebody in order to damn somebody. I would tell you we in this country, all of us Members of this House, know very well every day we receive such letters and such petitions from different sources. We, the Government Bench, receive letters which are worse than this about individuals. The reason why I said that I am very sorry the letter was read out here, that letter might have been written by somebody who had no connection whatever with the Military Forces. He might be a servant of this officer whom he kicked out for doing something to him; it might be something really unconnected with the work of this man.

I do not accuse my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, for reading the letter because at the end of it he said he does not form any opinion one way or another but it is just something which has come to his notice. I would expect that the hon. Member would see me in my office and hand this letter to me (I received a copy of it) because if we allow these things to happen this way we shall be frightening some, might be very good friends of this country, because some of them now that this thing has been mentioned in this House, might be completely ignorant of it and as human beings definitely they will be very hurt. I would very much ask hon. Members to be very careful in bringing these things to such a very important place. The House of Representatives, keeps, we all know, the highest Legislature in the land. Things which are spoken here must be regarded as very serious things.

I am grateful that many hon. Members have seen the importance of the Nigerian Military Forces and many of them are interested in



contributing whatever they can to the development of the Army. We in the Government are equally interested and we shall do what we can to produce a Nigerian Army worthy of a new Nigeria. (*Hear, hear*).

I am, Sir, again very grateful to the House for these very constructive remarks they have made about the Military Forces.

*Sitting suspended : 11.43 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 12 noon.*

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife)** : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a brief point and I am happy to say that although the Prime Minister is not here his Parliamentary Secretary is here. Mr Chairman, I think that the age limit for the recruitment of officers into the officer cadet corps is very small—18-22. I think it will help a lot if the age limit is raised much higher because I know that there are many men who are very much interested in getting into the army and we can get more educated people into the army if the age limit is raised. In fact I will go as far as 40. I am saying it very seriously that if the Prime Minister should consider the raising of age limit to forty, I am certain that within a very short time we will get sufficient officers to fill the army.

Secondly the Prime Minister's speech was very nice but he has not told us what plans he has for concluding foreign command of the Nigerian Army. We must know where we are going. It is all right to say : "Oh yes, we have new officers." We must have a plan, a target date by which the foreign command of our army must cease. And in that case all the foreigners we have in the army will be advisers to the Nigerian commandants of the army. We must know when. We cannot afford to make it five years. We can have these foreign advisers who will advise our own officers. In that case we can have somebody who will be in complete charge of the army, who will be a Nigerian, and he can have a British adviser or a German adviser to help in running the show because of his inexperience. But I would hate to see Nigeria as an independent country with an army that is actually commanded by foreigners, however loyal they might be. If I command the Ghanaian Army and there is a likelihood of a war between Ghana and Nigeria, you will know where my loyalties must be. It is natural.

I am not saying that there is any likelihood of any war breaking out within the Commonwealth, but all the same I think it is better to take much more care than is necessary in these matters. As an example, sometime ago an all Nigerian Battalion, commanded completely by Nigerians and run entirely by Nigerians was established and I am happy to say, and I think the Prime Minister would be able to say so or to contradict me if I am wrong, that that Battalion was the best in the whole of the army in exercises, practice, in sports, in everything that Nigerian Battalion was first class, they came on top. Do you know what happened to that Battalion? As usual, the unit was stopped. Why? We would like to know before Members are stopped short in this debate. It will be interesting to know why that unit was not continued and if it has been successful. My assurance was that it was successful. Why was it not continued with or expanded?

Again, Sir, I think that the administrative side of the Army is another angle that we cannot afford to forget. What plans are we having for putting our own men in the administrative side of the Army? I want an assurance from the Prime Minister on these short points.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw)** : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment and I would like to make a few observations on the military forces of this country. The life of a country depends on the stability of its military force and that is why I will be one of those to see that we fight seriously for our independence. You all remember what our people did in the last two world wars. It was with the able contribution of our people that the Great Britain was able to win these wars. Mr Chairman, the French people trying to bring about the test of the atomic bomb to the Sahara desert goes to show that these people are trying to declare war against Britain.

Mr Chairman, Sir, what I am trying to say is that, we should be very serious in the training of our people and to see that we prepare ourselves against the future so that when we shall come into our own and enemies try to penetrate into our country we shall drive them away. And I will be one of those in the forefront.



**The Chairman :** I do not like intervening, but the Committee must remember that this is a Supplementary Estimate and they must refrain from making speeches which might be relevant to the second reading of the main Appropriation Bill in the March Budget sitting. This is only a Supplementary Estimate and they should discuss the details of the Supplementary Expenditure.

**Mr Ezonbodor :** Mr Chairman, Sir, why I want to say a few words about the military forces is that during the Debate on the Atomic Test, I was not given an opportunity. Mr Chairman, I have seen many of these our youths in the military forces: they are trying very much and we should see to it that there is no discrimination in promotion, because we see that the expatriates are being given the best opportunities and our people relegated to the background. We should give opportunities to our people. Give them promotion, they deserve it, so that when we come to our own we know it is our people that will man the military forces.

**Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Amendment because the Mover asked for improvement in the military forces and at the same time he is asking for a reduction of £10 from the Head.

Mr Chairman, I feel strongly that it is high time that we seriously thought about sufficient provision for the military forces on which depends the defence of Nigeria in case of any eventuality. Sir, it is interesting to note that the strength of the cadet unit in the Yaba Technical Institute has been increased, and also it is a wise thing in the right direction that new units have been raised in St. Joseph's College in the Southern Cameroons, in the University College, Ibadan, and the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. There are other existing units here, Sir, like King's College, the Government College, Umuahia, the Government College, Ibadan, the Government College, Zaria. I feel that they are not enough.

When Members spoke about the expansion of the military forces, I heard the Prime Minister say that this could not be done at the moment due to shortage of staff. I think there is one way out in that, Sir, and this is that if we want other approved secondary schools to take part in this training, the cheapest

way is to arrange courses for the teachers of these secondary schools which they will attend, and after the course they will be able to know what instructions to impart to students in their charge. That will be a very cheap way of spreading the training that we want for our people.

Sir, in my view no additional sum added to strengthen our defence forces should be considered too high, and in view of what is happening between the French Cameroons and the Southern Cameroons, I feel that it is high time we did something about our military forces, and I am of the opinion that the Vote of £3.48 million provided in the 1959-60 Estimates is not enough. In the next Estimates, Sir, I would like to see an increase of about £1 million to the Vote so that when we are talking of setting our military forces on a good footing we should do it properly, particularly now that we know independence is in front of us. Sir, it is very very important, and I feel that the Prime Minister should make it a point to see that sufficient Vote is given to the military department, particularly now that we have a very farsighted officer, the new Major-General. I know he will do well to make the military forces attractive to our young men. As we said, we Members will be able to tell our young men that this is a time, if they really want to help their country, for them to come forward and make the military force a career. To be able to do that, Sir, I am suggesting that courses should be arranged for teachers from approved secondary schools so that at the end of their course they will be able to know what instructions to impart to their students.

**The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa):** Mr Chairman, Sir, my Colleague has been very kind enough to take down a few points which were made by my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode, who, I must say, has always a military mind. He says that the age limit of those people who will enter the military cadet forces training should be 40. Possibly, Sir, he is trying to make himself qualifiable to enter. I think the training is intended for those who are really very young, who might become potential officers, and who might take the army as a career. It would be very difficult, Sir, to extend it to people who are 40. After all, Sir, promotions in the army are made by certain criteria, and if a man



of 40 enters the army as an army officer, before he becomes a major, I think it will be time for him to leave the force. I think it is good there is some kind of means by which people who are of the age of 40, if they are interested, could do some kind of training which will equip them for a future emergency. (*Hear, hear.*) I can remember, Sir, during the war we had local defence forces all over Nigeria and some of us enrolled in those local defence forces. I do not know, Sir; I will of course speak to the General about this and see whether anything could be done.

My hon. Friend also suggested that foreign officers should cease to be commanding the battalions of our units and that they should only be advisers. But the House, I think, will agree that the young Nigerian officers who are coming out from Sandhurst do really need training that is necessary in order that they should gain the proper experience, and they can only get it from these expatriate officers in the army who are serving with the military forces. Sir, I do not think it is a wise idea to expect straight away now that all the expatriate army officers should cease to function as army officers but that they should only be merely advisers.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife)** : Mr Chairman Sir, I do not think the Prime Minister understood my request. I was saying that there should be a plan, that we should know for how long these foreign officers would command our forces and what target date we have for our Nigerians to take over.

**The Prime Minister** : We are always planning, Mr Chairman, and not very long ago the Defence Council considered a comprehensive paper by the Officer Commanding the Nigerian Military Forces (who retired only recently) and there was a definite plan about this thing, and I hope that at the proper time the House will be informed about it.

I do not understand, Sir, my hon. Friend's remark on recruiting our administrators in the army from Nigeria. Could I ask him to explain that, Sir, if he will agree?

**Mr Fani-Kayode** : Mr Chairman, I was only referring to the administrative side of the army as opposed to the men in the field. I mean the men who sit in the office arranging postings and so on.

**The Prime Minister** : Mr Chairman, Sir, the army is the army, and those who administer the army should be the army people. They should be the army people, Sir, and I hope that my Friend is not suggesting that the remarks made by some of the hon. Members that the civilian workers—some of them are temporary now—should be put in the position of these army officers who carry on the administration. If you do not know a thing you can hardly administer it. I think everybody will agree with that. (*Some hon. Members : Yes.*)

I am grateful, Sir, to Chief Mariere for his contribution, but I have no doubt that when the House comes to debate the next Estimates there might be considerable increase in the army votes, because I can remember at the last Budget Meeting, Sir, many hon. Members requested that our military forces must be equipped with the proper weapons. Now, these military and proper weapons cost a lot of money, and we are now considering the possibility of securing for our soldiers weapons that could be regarded as modern. (*Applause.*)

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Question, that the sum of £176,840 for Head 23—Military—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 24.—NIGERIAN NAVY

*Question proposed, That the sum of £6,950 for Head 24—Nigerian Navy—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass)** : Mr Chairman, in speaking to support the Head, I would like to say a few things as my remarks. The first, Sir, stems from the remarks that have been made by my Friend, Mr Fani Kayode, when he was speaking on the age limit of officers who are coming into the military forces.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would very much like to know the age limit of officers who are going to enter the Nigerian Navy, whether it is limited to the ages of 18 to 21 or 22. I will, Sir, humbly suggest that if it is limited to 21 or 22, to increase it to at least 40 so that even men who are interested in the navy and are already serving in some other departments of the Government can change over so that Nigerian interests shall be properly protected and our security properly guarded.



]REV. BENS]

The second point, Sir, is this one. When in 1956 the Nigerian Navy was to be established, according to the White Paper, we should have twenty-five officers. I should like to know whether Nigeria still has got only twenty-five officers from 1956 to 1959 as the full disposition of the officers of the Nigerian Navy, and I would like to know from the Prime Minister, Mr Chairman, the African proportion of these twenty-five officers.

The same White Paper, Sir, under Appendix B gave the full establishment of the petty officers and ratings as 239. I would like to know whether 239 people of the petty officers and ratings can constitute a proper number of a navy of a country soon to be independent. (*Interruptions.*) Those people who are on that side of the House will not appreciate what I am saying because after all, Mr Jaja Wachuku, my hon. Friend, struck a very important note when he said in his speech on the military forces that people have got their own inclinations and people from various sections of the country have got their own aptitudes. We too have got our own aptitudes, and when I say these things you will not understand them.

Mr Chairman, Sir, where we require a cork we shall have to use a cork so that if you throw a cork into the sea it can float, but when you take lead and stone, they will sink to the bed of the river. Mr Chairman, Sir, what I am saying is that the number 239, if it is still the number of the petty officers and ratings of the naval officers of Nigeria, is an apology. I ask the Prime Minister to consider this and if possible to employ up to at least 2,000 because after all, 200 people cannot be sufficient to staff a man o'war. I hope the Prime Minister will take that into consideration.

As I said before, we who have the natural aptitude shall have to be encouraged. I remember quite well, when the Queen visited Nigeria in 1956, the Queen was very satisfied, she was very satisfied with the war canoes of my area. Mr Chairman, what I am saying is that we who have the natural aptitude for the navy—because in those days we had our own rights and our own monarchs, and our own securities jealously guarded—and therefore we must have to guard them on land and on the sea and we who are readily good material for the Government should be made use of. I am satisfied somehow for those of us who have been employed in the navy, and I will come to that.

The third point, Mr Chairman, I want to mention is this one which comes under Sub-head 19. I think it is about £1,500. This is really very encouraging. Mr Chairman, I want it to be placed on record my appreciation of the great strides made by the Nigerian Navy since it was established in 1956. We are very happy to know that the H.M.N.S. "Nigeria" will soon be ready and that officers and other crew of the vessel are already in the United Kingdom. This is very encouraging and I believe that the Director and other officers of the Navy will be able to make use of this important vessel.

**An hon. Member :** Point of Order, Mr Chairman. The H.M.N.S. "Nigeria" is not in the Supplementary Estimates.

**Rev. Bens :** It is at the footnote. It means that you have not read your Supplementary Estimates well.

**The Chairman :** The footnote is about providing victualling stores for H.M.N.S. "Nigeria". Let us hear what he has to say about it.

**Rev. Bens :** I am very grateful, Mr Chairman. The hon. Member has been confining all his time to University lectures that he . . . . .

**The Chairman :** Order, Order.

**Rev. Bens :** I wish to confine my remarks to the Supplementary Estimates. What I was saying is that the Navy has, in a very short time of its inception, taken very great strides in the way of bringing itself to a point where we can know that it is actually Navy and that is by providing a vessel which is actually a "*Man of War*". Well, Mr Chairman, when in 1956 the Navy was established there were about eleven vessels. It might interest the House to know that of the various vessels that were assigned to the Navy for civilian purposes there was not a single one that was . . . . .

**The Chairman :** These eleven vessels are certainly not mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates. The provision or the use of them is not mentioned.

**Rev. Bens :** One more point, Sir. You know that anything that we say at this particular time in this hon. House regarding security measures should be taken very seriously. Mr Chairman, Sir, yesterday this hon. House passed a Motion signifying its dissatisfaction with France's intention to test the atomic bomb.



**The Chairman :** Order, order.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): The hon. Gentleman has spoken so much irrelevance that it is time he came back to the main point.

**Rev. Bens :** What I was saying is this. Yesterday the House passed a Motion... (Laughter).

**The Chairman :** I have given the hon. Gentleman a chance. If the irrelevance persists in disregard of my ruling on this subject again, I shall have to consider it an offence and ask him to resume his seat.

**Rev. Bens :** I ask for the indulgence of the Chairman. There must be a preamble to some main subjects. Mr Chairman, what I was going to say is that I want to call the attention of the Director and other officers of the Navy to the fact that we have to get a proper Navy.

**An hon. Member :** You have said it.

**Rev. Bens :** I have not said it. If Nigeria was to be actually secure and if the British Government was sincere then let the Government begin to think of getting men from our Naval Force and attach them to the Research Unit in the United Kingdom where actual weapons are being manufactured. Mr Chairman, there is no use talking of getting a Navy of an Army that will depend entirely on foreign weapons. We must start to make our own weapons. That is the point I am making. The Nigerian Government must think of getting her own men attached to the Research Unit of the U.S.A. Naval Force and of the United Kingdom Naval Force.

I beg to support.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, the hon. Member for Brass asked for certain information. Now, we hope that by 1960-61 we shall have about fifty-five officers in the Royal Nigerian Navy (*Hear, hear*) and there will be, Sir, about five hundred and eight ratings. Everything is being done to recruit Nigerians and I told the House not very long ago, Sir, that the Navy is doing very well and the young Nigerians in training are also doing very well. The hon. Member has asked that we extend the age limit for those who go to training to forty. Well, I do not know whether perhaps we want to qualify for it but I am not sure, Sir, whether a person's height... (Laughter).

*Question that £6,950 for Head 24.—Nigerian Navy—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 25.—POLICE

*Question proposed, That £55,110 for Head 25.—Police—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Mr J. L. Nsima** (Eket): My object in moving this amendment to reduce Sub-head 5 by £10 is that I am seeking for an explanation of the increase of £5,000 on this head.

I remember that we made allocation to the Police to buy new vehicles and after we had voted £127,560 we would have believed that this amount would cover maintenance and running costs of those new vehicles—there should have been a surplus because the amount is really very large—but now we are called upon to approve another £5,000 for this Head under the pretext that this additional provision is required owing to the recent increase in the cost of petrol. I feel that this estimate was prepared when we were aware of the increase in petrol. This provision ought to have been taken care of and this additional £5,000 would not have been necessary at this time.

I am also to question the ratio of petrol increase that merits at this time of the year an additional vote of £5,000. Apart from that we understand too that horses are going to be purchased for the Southern Cameroons for patrol purposes. In that case I am going to suggest that there are certain type of cars that could be used in the Southern Cameroons other than horses'—Jeep.

I would like to know too whether our Government is aware of the fact that the policemen we sent recently to the Southern Cameroons have been returned to Nigeria by the leader of the Southern Cameroons Government. I would like to have an explanation why our policemen sent to the Southern Cameroons have been returned.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed :*

**Chief N. G. Yellowe** (Degema): Mr Chairman, Sir, sometime ago in February I appealed that an additional police barracks should be built somewhere in Degema Division and that a suitable type of craft should be provided to ply the creeks. Now, not very



[CHIEF YELLOWE]

long after that I had to wire the Inspector-General of Police reporting an incident that took place there—the incident involved robbery, shooting and so on. Now, Sir, the Police in my area, in my division, ought to have suitable type crafts to deal with the creeks and I hope that these motor vehicles and launches, at least one or two of them, will be at the disposal of the police in that area to enable them to control that place where troubles always emanate in that part of the world.

The Minister of Finance was referring to me when I was speaking about his Bill and he made use of the word *Ochokrocho*. Mr Chairman, Sir, any member of this House who really values the life of the people—Nigerians—should I think support this plea that additional motor vehicles and launches should be supplied to the police in order to enable them to tackle the problems down the rivers. I am talking particularly of launches. I have stressed this point time and again and I want to impress it upon this hon. House that if anything happens there again—if there is any disaster in that place—this House will be responsible, if we fail to give that area sufficient crafts to supervise the place. We want additional police barracks as soon as possible in that area—barracks equipped with launches or suitable crafts to man that place.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Motion to reduce anything from this vote.

**An hon. Member :** What is the meaning of *Ochokrocho* ?

**Chief Yellowe :** Come and ask me.

**Mr F. T. Odum (Ahoada) :** I just want to call your attention to sub-head 45 on the Fire fighting equipment.

**The Chairman :** That is not under this head.

**Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. I suggest that provision should be made under this Item so that every divisional police station should be provided with a Land Rover. The provision of a Land Rover in each police station will not only promote the efficient performance of the police duties as far as my constituency is concerned, but will also help the poor people who are aggrieved for spending money from their pockets in hiring cars for police constables who conduct investigations in connection with offences reported to them.

What happens to-day ; when a complaint is made to the police the complainant is generally made to hire a car to take the police constable to the scene of action. The distance may be from 20 to 30 miles and in our area it costs 1s a mile to hire a car and 2s per return trip. That is, the complainant will have to spend 40s to 60s before he gets the police to conduct investigation into his complaint. This kind of thing is very bad indeed and I want the Government to provide a Land Rover in each police station and if they fail, they should see that a stop is put to this. Poor people should not be made to pay the cost of transport unnecessarily.

Before I leave this Item I want to seize the opportunity to thank the Prime Minister for posting an Assistant Superintendent of Police to Ubiaja to take charge of Ubiaja and Auchu Police Detachments. Our people are very pleased and they hope that this will enable the police to conduct investigations into criminal offences in the division most efficiently.

On the Floor of this House I stressed in February this year that many criminal people are left unpunished. They are left at large merely because of their political affiliation with the Action Group—the political party in power in the Western Region. I hope that this will stop.

**An hon. Member :** Is this connected with the Customary Courts ?

**Mr Ebea :** Yes. I hope that the Government will do its best to take these points into consideration.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to talk on this item. I come from the Rivers Area where we encounter much of transport difficulties and the police particularly are more handicapped in going out to investigate their cases.

Mr Chairman, Sir, you will remember in this House I made a statement that the Action Group controlled Divisional Council sustained a loss of a heavy sum of money, about £18,000, embezzled by some individuals outside and within the council. The police complained that they had no means of transport to carry out the investigation. So that till this time the offenders have never been apprehended. So policemen are complaining that they should be given adequate transport to enable them to travel to the areas in order that they may



investigate cases. Why we want this is if the constables are given transport facilities they will be able to prevent many things that are happening in that area.

I can remember what happened to the Minister of Finance. These Action Groupers organised hooliganism. They wanted to rough-handle the Minister. They wanted to beat him up. They threw stones at him; they even wanted to mob him, because there were no policemen. I am trying to say that transport facilities should be provided for the Police Force on the Rivers Area to enable the police to check the situation.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I rise to oppose the amendment and have to say that I do not agree with my Friend Nsima. If he can only read the footnote in the Estimates he will see the reasons for the increase of this £5,000.

Many Members have asked for increase in Police vehicles so that the police should be able to perform their duties efficiently throughout the Federation. Now I agree that this is our intention whenever funds are available. I think Mr Ebea has mentioned that Land Rovers should be provided for the police. I think one can say that in every such place or near the police station a Land Rover or a sort of transport is provided for them to move about.

Mr Chairman, Chief Yellowe, and Mr Ezonbodor have spoken of launches for the police. In their areas, of course, Land Rovers are of no use at all. They will be pleased to hear that we cannot provide launches because launches take over a year to build but we are hoping to provide the police in those areas with outboard motor canoes so that they can move around easily (*Hear, hear*).

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, Sir, in opposing this amendment I should like to take this opportunity to ask the head of the police through the Prime Minister to speak to his officers, especially the women police officers, in the way they use the vehicles. They should be more human in the way they haul offenders into the vehicles. It is revolting to see how the women police officers haul people into their vehicles as if they are animals. I think that the purpose of providing them with Land Rovers is to expedite their work. They haul hawkers, especially children, into

the vans mercilessly and I am appealing to the Prime Minister to kindly speak to the Inspector-General about this, particularly the conduct of the women police in the handling of offenders.

**M. Abdulkadiri Koguna, Wakinlin Riyogi** (East Kano): Mr Chairman Sir, in supporting this Head I have one or two points to raise on the Floor of this House. The police are of course doing their work very well but some of them are indulging in politics. This is very bad and they should desist from it.

The second point is that there is a detachment on the railway passenger train. There is a lot of complaints from all parts of the Northern Region, from people travelling in the passenger trains that there are gamblers who travel in the trains—people who play *cha cha*. These policemen are not at all doing their job and I am asking the Prime Minister to see to it that this practice is checked.

I beg to oppose.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

**Mr J. Mpi** (Ahoada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want first of all to oppose the amendment to reduce the amount allocated to this sub-head of Police. In doing so I would refer to sub-head 41—Clothing—and point out that I do not know whether our Prime Minister has taken note of the present lizard skin uniform given to our policemen. . . .

**The Chairman**: The hon. Member had better wait till we come to that.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Amendment proposed to reduce Sub-head 41 by £10.*

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa** (North East Central Kano): Mr Chairman, in view of what the hon. the Prime Minister said about the first Motion that I moved I would like to withdraw the amendment.

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

*Amendment proposed to reduce Head 25—Police—by £10.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, in moving the amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper I would like to bring to the notice of the Prime Minister the duties of the Police Force during the forthcoming Federal election, because it is quite



[MR ADEYINKA]  
certain that in four months' time the whole country will go to the polls. With the experience of what happened during previous elections I am appealing that there should be sufficient police force to cope with this election because there are a lot of ugly rumours going about that certain political parties are planning murder. . . .

**Mr S. J. Una (Uyo)**: Point of Order. Mr Chairman, the hon. Member is making a speech on what is not contained in the Estimates.

**The Chairman**: I do not think he has gone far enough to reach that; I have not noticed it.

**Mr Adeyinka**: Thank you, Mr Chairman. The money voted for the police is a large sum of money and we want the police to do their duty. We need sufficient police reinforcements to cope with this election. We know what we suffered in past elections and if there is no strong police force to cope with this one the lives of voters might be at stake. I appeal to the Police Department in view of what happened in my division during the last elections; somebody was murdered during the broad daylight and up till now nothing has happened. Intelligent Police Officers should be sent and they should be vigilant in order to track down these offenders.

It is widely circulated in the Western Region that some political leaders have even gone so far as to import arms. I would like these Intelligence Officers to go out and track down these criminal elements. In order that the lives of the people should be protected it is important that that arm of the Police Force should be strengthened. (*Interruption*). I know why my Friend on the left side is so heated: he knows where the shoe pinches him. If his mind is so open I see no reason why he will stand and oppose me. Nobody will allow himself to be shot just because he is going to vote, and no candidate will like to be murdered because he is going to stand an election.

In order that the lives of the people will be protected it is necessary that the police should be strengthened. If not that any matter that affects public order is under the control of the Governor-General and not within the competence of the Prime Minister, I would have asked that during the elections a state of emergency should be declared and all persons

should surrender all their arms including dane guns. I am making this appeal to bring this point to the notice of the Prime Minister so that the Police Department will be vigilant and track down any offenders.

Next I go to the question of Nigerianisation in the Police Department. We have just received the Report of the Nigerianisation Committee set up by this House, and I would like, with the indulgence of the Chairman, to refer to page 19 paragraph 57 of this Report. This paragraph says: "The Acting Inspector-General thinks that on the present showing it will take another seven to eight years to produce a Nigerian Deputy Commissioner of Police but the Committee unfortunately does not share this view".

In the same report it says that in the view of the Acting Inspector-General of Police he thinks that it is not possible at this time to have an indigenous African to relieve the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

We have received a lot of complaints that there are some qualified men in the Nigerian Police Force. I understand there was a young man who had Inter B.Sc. in Economics, trained as Cadet Inspector and underwent some type of training in police duties not only in Nigeria but also in the United Kingdom. What happened? This young man was not considered. The excuse has always been we have not the experienced or qualified men. But to-day the Police Force is not what it used to be in the olden days because now we have qualified men joining the Police Force. We have Cadet officers with the requisite qualification. I say that when these men are available they should be considered for promotion.

It is shameful that after these years we cannot find anybody to be Deputy Commissioner of Police. It is shameful that we cannot find a Nigerian who will be in the superscale post and who will eventually control the Police Force. Look at Ghana, which is an independent state. To-day in Ghana there is an African at the Head of Police Department. How can we get it if, according to the Acting Inspector-General, it will not be possible within eight years? I am quite happy that the Nigerianisation Committee disagreed with him and they put up several suggestions which should be given consideration.



The young man in question has the qualification. I will not subscribe to those who say that simply because a man is a university graduate when he gets into the Department he should be catapulted to the top. He must have experience. When we have men with the educational background they should be given an opportunity. This man was trained in the United Kingdom in the Metropolitan Police College and Hendon. He scored a first class pass and after training he was placed in charge at Kaduna. What happened to him when he was called for interview in Lagos? Simply because he did not arrive in time he was not considered. This type of thing is demoralising. He has no adverse report and I hope the Prime Minister will check this matter. When we encourage the young men in the Police Force other will be happy to join. Where we have sufficiently qualified Nigerians they should be made to go into the superscale grade in order that eventually the whole Police Force will be Nigerianised and we will have a Nigerian at the Head of the Police Department.

In conclusion I want to remark that the life of the people of this country must be protected—because I know what I suffered in Ibadan during the last election; I know the fate awaiting electors during the election—some political party can just kill people, our fear is that even when people are killed nothing will happen. I would like an assurance that the lives of the people will be protected and anybody who commits a crime, nobody is above the law, if you commit a crime I would like the Police to bring the man to book, especially when somebody goes to plot for murder. I ask the Prime Minister that what happened in Ibadan during the last election will not happen during the coming election.

**Mr. Sanni Okin** (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. Personally speaking I do not quarrel with the supplementary expenditure further provided for the services of the Nigerian Police.

I have a few comments to make. Sir, experience and the current political events throughout the Federation clearly show that some members of the Police Force are clearly interested in politics. Our advice to the Inspector-General of Police and the Police officials in charge of all Native Authority Police

Forces is to be more vigilant and watchful of the activities of some members of the Police Force.

Mr Chairman, Sir, to illustrate my point. During the month of July 1959, some members of the Ilorin Native Authority Police were sent for medical examination for re-engagement. They were found medically fit. But fourteen of them were found administratively unfit and were discharged. A few days later, what happened was that one of the suspended people clearly declared for a certain political party and now he is one of the Action Group campaigners in Ilorin. A further move was being made so that some of them would soon declare for the same party. I strongly appeal to the Inspector-General to see that some Police Officers in charge of operational control of the Native Authority Forces should be more vigilant and check them. If any member of the Police Force is found to be keenly interested in politics let him resign at once and enter the field of politics.

Mr Chairman I beg to oppose.

**Mr L. L. Lakunle** (Oyo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, in rising to support this amendment I would like to call the attention of the House to one aspect of Nigerianisation in the Police Force. When the Inspector-General was coming here to listen to this debate he took along with him somebody. Why could he not take a Nigerian along with him? The first thing that I would like this House to note is that Nigerians are very very far behind in the Police Force. Mr Chairman, there is one thing that I would like us to bear in mind. Ghana is not more developed than this country. If a Ghanaian can head the Ghana Police, there is no reason why a Nigerian, on this eve of independence, cannot just be one or two steps below the Inspector-General of Police. But what do we have here in Nigeria? The Nigerian who holds the highest post in the Police Force is a thousand and one steps below the Inspector-General of Police.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are satisfied with the way the Prime Minister has been managing the Departments under his portfolio. In all directions he has been trying his best to see that Nigerianisation is going on rapidly in the Departments, but it appears that Nigerianisation has no meaning in the Police Force. That is how I look at it. Between 1958 and 1959 not



[MR LAKUNLE]

less than sixty Police officers were imported into this country, mainly from Malaya after Malaya got her independence. Now we have our own men here. We have people with B.A. (Hons.) English and people with LL.B., Inter B.Sc. and so on and so forth. I can even mention names. These people were not encouraged. Whenever there are vacancies for promotion, instead of bringing forth people who are really educated, people who can measure up to standard, people who can impress the promotion Board, what the Police authorities do is to bring forth people who cannot measure up to standard so that they will say there are no people to be promoted and the next thing is to import people from abroad, whereas we have men who have B.A., LL.B., Inter B.Sc. and so on and so forth. (*Interruptions.*) They are there one Mr Onubogu, has B.A. (hons.) English, one Mr Tinubu, has LL.B. and one Mr Egbunike has Inter B.Sc. (Econs). There are others, but they are not encouraged.

There was a time the Police authorities advertised that they wanted people with high educational qualifications. Many people with the requisite educational qualifications applied and were taken but they were not encouraged at all. The result was that other people refused to join the force with degrees and intermediate degrees. What the Police Force did was to reduce the standard of entry to G.C.E. advanced level. I would like the Prime Minister to go into this to see whether this information is correct or not, whether they have people with B.A., LL.B. and Inter B.Sc.

**The Chairman :** I have been counting the number of B.As. and LL.Bs. They are five so far.

**Mr Lakunle :** Thank you, Mr Chairman. What I am trying to point out is that these men with all these qualifications, hold the ranks of "A.S.P. on trial". I mean people with B.A. and LL.B. and so on. Is that not wonderful? In other Departments people with the same qualifications have been riding about in big cars and so on. My point is this, Sir, if we have Nigerians who can be Permanent Secretaries, Directors or Deputy Directors, I see no reason why our own men cannot be near the Inspector-General at this hour when we have just a year to go to independence.

There are many things that they do in this Police Force that one would be very annoyed to hear about. Before somebody could be promoted, he has got to have a godfather.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) :** What of godmothers?

**Mr Lakunle :** Yes, he has got to have people who watch his interests. People must be on the good record of certain officers before they can get promotion.

Mr Chairman, I should like the Prime Minister to see to this, and if possible to speak to the Inspector-General of Police. I know the Inspector-General of Police is not guilty of all these offences, but he may not know what is going on. But if he looks to the complaints, I am quite sure that he will be able to do something about them so that in the nearest future we shall be able to have Deputy Commissioner, Commissioners and Deputy Inspector-General of Police. After the retirement of the present Inspector-General of Police, if possible, I would implore that the next Inspector-General of Police should be a Nigerian. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, if we turn to the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Nigerianisation of the Federal Public Service, paragraph 53, with your permission Sir, I will read that small paragraph :

"the acting Inspector-General thinks that on the present showing, it will take another seven to eight years to produce a Nigerian Deputy Commissioner of Police but the Committee unfortunately does not share this view."

Now the point I want to bring out from this is that, if the Acting Inspector-General thinks that it will take another seven or eight years for Nigeria to have a Nigerian Deputy Commissioner, it means that it will take about forty years to get a Nigerian Inspector-General of Police. This is very bad. It is bad indeed. If you think of people like Mr Agbabiaka who has been Assistant Commissioner of Police, I think he has got sufficient experience in Police duties to rise to any post in the Police Department. Yet he is still Assistant Commissioner of Police, and the worst part of it is that this man is nearing his retirement. Now, we have young men with the requisite educational qualifications. I wonder whether



the Prime Minister, or the Inspector-General of Police, will not do something to raise these people so that in the nearest future we can have our own men to man the Police Force.

The next point I would like to make is about the forthcoming Federal Election. I think this election will be the most hotly contested in Nigeria and so I would appeal to the Police to be on the alert because as things are now, if the Police are not on the look out many things that we cannot predict now will happen, but if the Police are on the alert I am quite sure that they will be able to arrest any occurrences that may arise during the election.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

**The Prime Minister :** (Alhaji the hon. Tafawa Balewa) Mr Chairman, Sir, it is better if I come into the debate at this stage while the points made by hon. Members are still fresh in my mind. First of all, Sir, the hon. Mr Adeyinka has asked that because of the forthcoming Federal Elections the Nigeria Police should be increased in size so that the Force will be able to cope with the additional work which the elections might impose upon it. I must say, Sir, that the hon. Member said himself that in three or four months time the elections will be held. Now we cannot produce a trained Policeman in three months, so it is quite out of the way, Sir, for the Federal Government to be asked now to train Policemen who will really discharge their duties efficiently during the elections. But I think the hon. Member will be glad to know that, apart from the Nigeria Police, the Native Authorities and the Local Government Police Forces will assist in this work. (*Several hon. Members : No, no !*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not aware again that there is mass importation of arms into the country by any political party. If there is, Mr Chairman, I am quite sure the Government will know, but there is not.

I am sorry, Sir, that my friend hon. Adeyinka referred to the Nigerianisation Committee report which was printed and distributed to Members. In the forward to the report I warned that the Federal Government has had no time at all to study the Report and make its recommendations. Therefore I very much ask hon. Members to reserve their comments,

if they are sure of returning to this House, until the new House meets; when they will be able to contribute fully to whatever recommendations they would like to make to Government.

Mr Adeyinka spoke at some length of a young Police Officer. Well, I am not interested in what he said but I am interested in how he comes by the knowledge he has got, because he said the gentleman had passed this and had passed that. He went for an interview at such and such a time, simply because he was late he did not do this, the Police Service Commission agreed but somebody refused. I shall be very pleased to know the source of the hon. Member's information. Indeed, Sir, hon. Members of this House have got many sources of information, some we know some we do not know. I do not agree, Sir, with the suggestion that Nigerianisation in the Police Force is suppressed. Members will agree with me that Nigerianisation in the Police Force has gone forward very well . . . .

**An hon. Member :** Not very well.

**The Prime Minister :** Very well, Sir, and it is going on very well also. Now the hon. Mallam Sanni Okin complained about some Native Authority Police in Ilorin who left the Ilorin Native Authority Police Service and joined another Political party. Well, I do not think, Sir, that the House will agree that after a man has left a disciplined Force he should not belong to any other organisation. If these people leave the Police Force and join another Political Party one cannot do anything about it.

Now, hon. Lakunle also spoke at length about Nigerianisation and about some Nigerian Officers in the Police Force, but he has not told us, Sir, what rank they hold now. He said so and so has got B.Sc., so and so has got M.A. and so on. But he has not told us what rank they hold in the Police Force . . . .

**Mr Lakunle :** On point of information, Sir, I said the men with B.A. and LL.B. hold the post of A.S.P. on trial and that the man with the Inter B.Sc. is on the Inspector grade. I said that, Sir.

**The Prime Minister :** Well, I am glad that they are on trial because the B.Sc. they got is not B.Sc. Police work and therefore, Sir, it is necessary for such highly qualified young-



[THE PRIME MINISTER]  
men whenever they join the Police Force with their university degree that they should be given some time to acquire the necessary experience, and to get the necessary training. Their advantage will be that their chances of quick promotion are greater than those of people who join the service with less educational qualifications.

As I said, Sir, I have come into the debate at this stage so that the points which the hon. Members have made will be explained.

**Mallam Ahmadu Fatika** (North Zaria): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment and in doing so I should like to make a few comments on this Department. Sir, I can see that the sum of £55,110 is provided in this Supplementary Estimate for maintaining the Police Force. Sir, any amount spent on this Department is wise spending, as the Police Force is very essential in any civilised country for maintaining law, order and peace. For this reason it is very essential for any country in maintaining law and order and peace.

But, Sir, unfortunately I am very sorry to mention it here on the Floor of this House. As hon. Members have already mentioned, some of our police now take part in politics. This can be checked from certain policemen in the Zaria Province who are openly supporting a particular party. Sir, this is very dangerous and in fact very grave. The police are required to serve the nation as a whole, not any particular person or group of persons, and that is why I say this is really dangerous, especially at this time when we are about to have a very important election. Therefore, through the Chairman, I appeal to the Prime Minister to see that all our policemen are not taking part in politics, openly or secretly. Also, I hope that the Prime Minister will use his good offices to implement the decision of the London Conference, that is that the policemen should be posted only in the areas whose languages can be understood.

Mr Chairman, the second point. It is very surprising, Sir, that while we were coming to Lagos about 16 miles away, when we were just stopped near a bridge, unfortunately a young Yoruba man came up to my car to look after it, but when he saw 'K' something he said, "you people, mind yourself; the Western Region will smash you up". Mr Chairman, Sir, this is very dangerous, especially at this

time when election is coming. Therefore, I appeal to the Prime Minister to use his good offices to see that such things do not occur during our election.

I support the Head.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun** (Oshun East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose this Amendment, but to take the opportunity to make three brief points. The first is this, that there is a complaint that there are not enough testing officers to inspect commercial vehicles, and that people who engage in this trade have to keep their lorries waiting from two to three months before they could get their certificates of roadworthiness. Since the Federal Government is in charge of police matters, I think this is the opportunity to mention that more and more testing officers should be posted to the different districts in the country to help our traders in their business.

The second point which I wish to make, Mr Chairman, is this. It is all very well, this talk about Nigerianisation; we all support it. But there is one matter which I would like to bring to the notice of this House, and that is that it may well be that for some time, and certainly during this transitional period, we will want in the police force in this country people who are men of conviction and who are bold. It does not matter the pigmentation of the skin. Those of us who live in the Western Region speak on this matter from our own experience of what we come by. We know very well that there is a great danger now, that the policeman is being blackmailed all over the place. I am speaking of Oshogbo in particular. What is happening now is that the whole of the policemen are afraid of their lives in Oshogbo, although it is a particular political party that causes all the lawlessness that goes on there.

These are matters that can be verified. Names can be mentioned. There are more than 25 cases of stoning which can be credited to only one political party in Oshogbo, and that is the Action Group. These are facts that are being stated. They organise hooligans to raid the homes of N.C.N.C. people every day. There are people in this House who come from Oshun Division. Mr Chairman, I am mentioning this matter because it is very important. It is true that they organise hooligans now in Oshogbo. They do not put the case of their party to the people. What



they do is to organise raids on the houses of N.C.N.C. people every day. That is what is happening now. (*Interruptions*).

What have we done? We told our supporters to go to the police, and when these people report and the police come forward to make investigations, they take these people to court. Sometimes they get away with it. Sometimes they write in the papers that the N.C.N.C. have done this and have done that, and the police failed to do their duty. I want to repeat this again and again, and it is a matter which should be taken up at a very high level because this election that is coming, if it is going to be an election and not war, the time has come now when we must know exactly where the police stand. The policemen are being bullied now in the Western Region, simply because it is alleged that they support the N.C.N.C.

What happens is this. After organising this trouble, they will accuse the police in advance, and when you go to the police to complain they say, "We are being called the name of N.C.N.C.; we do not know what to do." A senior police officer told me he did not know what to do. I just want to make this point, Mr Chairman, it is not a matter to be taken lightly. If the Action Group people in Oshogbo feel that they can organise hooliganism and the police are not going to be able to do anything about it, and we mention it here and nothing happens, then you will find that the people will organise themselves more. It does not mean that we cannot take care of ourselves. If they come to my house to do that, I shoot them because it is my own house; I have got the right to live.

What we are saying is that nobody should take the law into his own hands. What is happening now all over the Western Region is a pointer to what is going to happen during the election. The police should be vigilant, and the police should refuse to be bullied. It is the duty of the police to do their job. They cannot be popular. I do not want them to be popular with the N.C.N.C.; I do not want them to be popular with the N.P.C.; I do not want them to be popular with the Action Group either. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman, I do not know why the interruptions should come from the Action Group alone. It is well-known by everybody

in this country that organised hooliganism is a political policy of the Action Group and that is why everybody in the country is getting up against them. What we are saying is that the police should do their duty.

It is good enough to have Africans in the police force. We have had the experience. I will tell you one example which I had with an African in an advanced position in the police force. We got a permit to hold a meeting. The permit was in our hands. One hour before the meeting started, this gentleman stepped into my house and said we should surrender the permit to him. I said, "Why?" and he said because there was going to be a breach of the peace. I said, "What do you think you are wearing this uniform for? You gave us the permit; we will hold our meeting. The people go about the town saying that the N.C.N.C. meeting will not be held here, and you are hearing that and you do not want to lock them up." I told him he was going to do it. I told him we were going to hold our meeting, and we held the meeting. So the police stood all over the place and we held the meeting and there was no trouble—because they made up their minds to keep the peace.

We say that when we are talking about Nigerianisation we have to go quietly and slowly. We want to make sure that the policeman is a man who does not want to be popular with one particular political party; we want to make sure that he is a man who cannot be bribed; we want to make sure that he is a man who is going to help to keep the peace no matter the circumstances. (*Applause*).

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say, in supporting this Head, not the amendment, that all the shouting that has been made about the police doing or not doing their duty, well, people's memories are very short. Only once in this House have I heard an hon. Member imputing that during a bye-election somebody whom he believed to be an Action Group party man was involved in the killing of a man in Ibadan. But not once has anybody said anything about the Adelabu riot, when all who lost their lives were the Action Groupers.

I am one with you. I like to keep the law, and I like my neighbour to keep the law. Now, how was it? They were all Ibadan people.



]CHIEF SOLARU]

They all had the same culture ; they had the same background. But you find that one particular political party managed to ravage the whole countryside and no single N.C.N.Cer lost his life.

**Some hon. Members :** How do you know ? What happened to Adelabu ? Who killed Adelabu ?

**Chief Solaru :** Mr Chairman, Sir, that is an example of the plight in which the police find themselves. Hon. Members will soil their reputation by repeating absolute lies on the Floor of this House by saying that Adelabu was killed by a political party man.

**Several hon. Members :** Shame ! Shame !

**Chief Solaru :** Against that kind of lying I can hold no parley. All I wish to say, Sir, is that the police should take heart that they have people who are as anxious to keep the law as are found in the party to which I belong (*Several hon. Members : Shame ! Shame !*) and I hope, Sir, that every party man who is sitting here will do his best to help the police to keep the law. Where you find any person failing to keep the law, by all means help to bring him to book. The truth itself is its own advocate. I want to believe every word you say, but when you repeat downright lies, I cannot stomach it. I myself passed along Ijebu Road on the day that unfortunate incident happened ; I saw the car ; the police were there and everything was investigated. And yet in this vein people are saying this. You are the people who are breaking the law. You are the people who are making people's blood boil. I say, Sir, that if you want to have a peaceful election, stop telling lies to the people.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would crave the indulgence of the Prime Minister. He said we should not say very much about the Nigerianisation Report. He said that we shall say it next year. I shall be in the gallery then. So I am craving the indulgence of the Prime Minister to point out that the way to find officers has been underlined in our Report. It is this that the House passed a Motion asking that there should be organised a training course for cadet A.S.P.'s. But what happened is that although the money has been voted, only cadet inspectors were being trained. The man who said that a man who is a graduate is being

employed as inspector-on-trial, what it means is that the graduate finds other departments more attractive and he goes there instead of coming to the police. That is one way of driving him away.

If you are training a man, it does not mean that you should not give him a grade which befits his qualification. The Prime Minister said that his B.Sc. degree is not on police duties. I quite agree with him. But the fact that he has got that basic grounding helps him to get a grasp more quickly of his police duties. That is what is happening in other departments. If I go to the civil service to-day, I hope I will not be expected to start from the executive grade level. I have never been a civil servant before, but I hope I shall be put somewhere commensurate with my experience and training and from there I would be able to go on. But if you do not encourage these people, you will never get them. It is only human nature that the person goes where he can find the best use for his talents and his experience.

Therefore, I am underlining this fact that the Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police Training Course that has been approved by this House should be resuscitated at once. It is only in that way that you can cut down the number of years that the Inspector-General of Police said the other time. We did not agree with him. The other thing that we say is that that is the only way we can accelerate the pace.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would go further to mention that my hon. Friend Lakunle said that the Inspector-General of Police came to this House bringing with him another expatriate official and not a Nigerian. The reason is this ; the Nigerian is right down at the bottom of the ladder of the superscale posts, and therefore he could not bring him and the only reason why he could not bring him is because the whole establishment is top heavy—there is Inspector-General, Deputy Inspector-General, Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and all these are filled by expatriates, and by the time the African can climb up to that level it will be about 40 years, according to his reckoning. That is why we have recommended that some of these deputies we can get rid of so that we can get to the top quickly. What we want are not people who will sit down in offices : we feel there is too much paper work. All that is happening,



when an African is about to get a senior post, is that a new post is created to which someone is catapulted, and when he thinks he is getting to the top of the ladder, well there are two more added on top and you can never get to the top. That is what is happening all round and that is what the Prime Minister has to watch if you want Nigeria Police Force to be manned by Nigerians.

I will conclude on this note, Sir, that the Police are the arm of Government and of this country, for the effective observation of the law, the keeping of the law. They are peace officers. I do not think that part is known well enough. It is unfortunate that in this country Police have to drill with bayonets and guns and so on. Well, to some extent it may be necessary exercise but it is not so apparent. The police act as if they are soldiers on the battle front. I must give credit to the few who have been behaving themselves as if they are peace officers. The duty of the police is to prevent crime. In this place they seem to be looking, lurking round until crime is committed before something is done.

I hope the Inspector-General of Police will hammer this into the heads of his officers. When they see a person about to commit a crime, he should be warned. Then, of course, if he persists you prevent the crime by taking him into custody but to wait or to lie in wait and to lurk, that is not the function of the police. I hope, Sir, that you will assist people to become law-abiding in this country. There are so many people who do not know the law and because of this it is the duty of peace officers to see that they do not break the law if it can be helped at all.

With this, Sir, I beg to support the Head.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu)** : Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the Motion and by so doing make some observations. I think that so much has been said about Nigerian Police. Nothing could be one hundred per cent perfect, but if you can achieve seventy per cent you will see that a good result has been achieved.

I have during the course of my stay in the East been able to notice the activities of our policemen in the higher brackets. I can say on the whole there has been achieved eighty per cent satisfaction. It cannot be that we should use one example. Everyone of us has got an example but that single experience or

several experiences should not dampen the good work done by others. I have had occasion to send telegrams to the Inspector-General of Police and to the Prime Minister on some activities of the Police at Port Harcourt.

**An hon. Member** : The demoguards (*Laughter*).

**Dr Mbadiwe** : Mr Chairman, it will amaze you to know that a person, a humble citizen on his way to a municipality where he had his education was nearly prevented.

**An hon. Member** : With demoguards.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : Four miles to Port Harcourt we were stopped on the road by uniformed police officers—not an African police officer—but a European in charge. Well, as a Legislator I must help the police to carry out their duty, co-operate with them wherever it is necessary but I was surprised when he said that some of our members could not enter Port Harcourt because they were wearing their party colours (*Laughter*.)

**An hon. Member** : Your body guards.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : But that is not the point. I saw some members of other political parties running all over the place, from Port Harcourt to Aba and from Aba to Port Harcourt. I asked what was the normal situation, what was all this running about ; but I was startled when the police started checking some cars. They had learnt that some cars with ammunition were being sent to Port Harcourt. You know how shocking that would be, to authorise the importation of ammunition to Port Harcourt in a car, as if that is not a brotherly territory.

That delayed the meeting for nearly two hours. Then I saw that it was a deliberate attempt that we should not enter Port Harcourt. Then I asked : "What do you want us to do, to take off the uniforms ?" I say to the Africans, "Show your great body of skin of black ebony." What is the uniform ? They had to take them off but I am saying that after this had been done as a measure of co-operation which we were entitled to give to the Police, I was told that I was travelling with too many cars. They have to enter Port Harcourt two by two—after two then another two (*Laughter*.) I called my Legal Adviser and said : "Point to the law which provides for the entry of cars two by two" (*Laughter*). I am saying that we have a preventive measure, and that it is



[DR NBADIWE]  
our duty to co-operate with the police and to give them the necessary aid in the maintenance of law and order. But there are some rules which make it so feasible that they are trying to obstruct. Two by two is not in the regulation. We have not learnt that there is any breach of the peace. I then asked him to telephone the Inspector-General who will tell him that there is no two by two in the regulation and so we had to enter Port Harcourt. Anyway we went to Port Harcourt and conducted our meeting and brotherly love was again enacted.

Turning to another point. Mr Chairman, I come to the uniform of the police. I have said it time and time again. Man is a ceremonial animal. I have told the Prime Minister that the present uniform is not attractive. Please let us decorate these men. You know there are times when people would like to have five shillings less in their pay and have a good uniform because it gives satisfaction to the soul. This type of unattractive shirts does not compare with that in the neighbouring countries and I think something ought to be done. If you like give them this present uniform for every day use or for manual labour but let us have something better, something dignifying. We are entering into independence next year. I do not suggest any rush. I do not want rush, but call for Advisers, let them submit their designs just as you have done in the Committee for Independence Celebrations. The public will help them to select what is good for the police.

On the question of mounted police; I am advising that with Independence Celebration we should make an experiment on the question of mounted police. I like to think of the traffic police; when you stand a person under heavy traffic, when you have a traffic jam the man's life is in danger. Apart from the added dignity it will give if he is there on a horse in some controlled position he can give better direction, at least any car could notice him but if he is there and many cars are running perhaps some drunkards can run over him and his life is at stake. Apart from mounted police for traffic duties there will be mounted police for ceremonial occasions. Those of us who represented you at the Self-Government Celebrations at Ghana saw how attractive few mounted police could be on ceremonial occasions which we witnessed, when the guest of honour from the United Kingdom

was coming to any of the public functions. The mounted police were limited in number but they gave the people confidence—that beautiful design. That was very colourful indeed and it cannot cost very much, the horses are there; let us experiment.

Mr Chairman, Sir, coming to the question of super-scale posts for the Nigeria Police, that cannot be over emphasised. I can say in all seriousness that the expatriate officers have done very splendid work in the Police Force (*Hear, hear*). Their sense of fairplay, their sense of hiding their feelings and everyone has the feeling but the test of maturity is the hiding of your feeling when you are asked to work.

**An hon. Member :** Can you hide your feeling?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Yes, I have always hidden my feeling except when Chief Okotie-Eboh tickles me, otherwise it is always hidden. Mr Chairman, I cannot use my experience in Port Harcourt to say what I have seen in the services of the expatriate. I think that they have done marvelous duty but apart from that we are bound to take over whether we like it or not. It is time. We may suffer in the process of taking over. Oh, Yes. That is the penalty of greatness. We may suffer in the process. Some of our men may not know the tradition of fairplay. They may not be able to hide their pride and do their work but that will be a microscopic few. I have seen Africans who are now in control, doing their work in various areas and doing it with dignity. They take things seriously. If you feel that a man is not qualified, if you do not give him the opportunity for him to say I am he cannot say I am. Once you make a person to feel his capability and you begin to give him the materials that make him look responsible he becomes responsible overnight. He becomes responsible because there is public eye on him but the same man if you take him out and put him in the corner he will say "Boo, even if I work from morning till evening who sees me, who will thank me?" He becomes irresponsible.

**An hon. Member :** Are you speaking from experience?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I am speaking from experience of life. After all Jesus of Nazareth was not educated in Cambridge or Oxford, but he was educated in the most celebrated university



[DR MBADIME]  
of universities and that is the university of life and experience. (*Applause*).

There are too many Assistants and Deputies, Mr Chairman, let us find a way of putting Africans on the super-scale posts and let us see how they behave. One thing has come out clearly and that was how Dr Manuwa, the erstwhile Chief Medical Adviser, got to the top. If he was not given the opportunity we would not know he was such an honest and dignified person with integrity. It is the opportunity that matters and all that the people want is opportunity. We should not wait until we come back to deal with Nigerianisation. This is the report before the House, but I will leave that alone now.

**An hon. Member :** You are not coming here again.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Whether I am here or not my voice will be heard here in Nigeria and in the world at any time, any day. (*Applause*).

On the question of the Northern and Southern Police, that is overdone. I think that the Premier of the North in a recent statement has tried to clarify the whole position because people have used Northernisation as a propaganda weapon—that the North do not like the South and are not willing to accept Southerners. There has been a recent announcement by the Premier that they want to catch up with us and nobody will grudge them. But after all, if the North is behind and do not catch up where are we? At the same time they have made it clear that this will not be to the detriment of the southern officers. But what I hate is the North using it as an excuse for employing expatriates. I do not like that at all. After all there is not a better experiment than that taking place in this House here, the Northerners working with Easterners and Westerners. Are they not working together despite the idiosyncracies of various political parties and their views? God has always created a harmoniser to produce symphony. Therefore I do not feel there should be any discrimination.

But I have one warning to give to Nigerians who rise to reasonable positions because it is necessary for them to do so. They should learn two things. The first is, just as people plead for them to get on top they should also

take the weaker brothers behind them and lift them up. There has been a tendency for some of our people once they get to the top you wonder how they talk to the junior man. "You get that chair". But if you want a classical example, let them go and see how the Ministers who are at the head behave. You cannot get them talking even to third class clerks anyhow. They say "Please, will you do this or that". That is a Minister talking to a third class clerk but not the Permanent Secretary, yet in a dignified tone. But you get some of these officers—Nigerians—holding big positions talking to the next man "You get that chair". Sir, it seems a type of inferiority complex. It appears to me that he has a power he never expected which has come to him suddenly. Therefore, this is a warning to our men in the Police; when they get these superior ranks they must show good example and bring others along with them.

There is also a question too, why do so many Regions say: "We want our men; we want people that speak our language"? That can be destroyed in a space of a year if the right person goes on top and uses that opportunity to show that he has no feeling other than that he has come to do his job irrespective of whatever feeling he may have. That one man alone can bring a lot of many changes. That is what we want and that is one way of proving to people that they want others to advance. After all this country will not run away from them.

Mr Chairman, the final suggestion which I make is that periodically the Inspector-General could arrange lectures by civilians of prominence in various walks of life, to go to speak to the policemen. Something apart from the normal police duties, something which brings the police into contact with civilians—the civic responsibility, that friendly atmosphere that the police ought to develop. Apart from being a law officer the police is the public relations officer of any growing country—a friendly helpful person not a person who is so antagonised with the people. From time to time to conduct lectures and I think we will have first grade police officers in this country.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Question again proposed, That the sum of £55,110 for Head 25—Police—stand part of the Schedule.*



**Mr J. U. Udom** (Abak): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the expenditure under this Head. Among the duties of police constables are the maintenance of peace and checking of offences. Police officers in Abak and Uyo Divisions have tried their best in these directions. And it is for this that I want to take this chance in paying tribute to the Police Authorities in Abak and Uyo Divisions. The way and manner the night marauders—a gang known as *Amauke*. . . . (*Interruption*).

**The Chairman**: Order, order, there is far too much interruption going on. Will Mr Udom continue his speech?

**Mr Udom**: Mr Chairman, I said the way and manner these people are being checked in these two Divisions through the efforts of the police constables call for praise, and from the answer given to me by the Prime Minister in this House, I gather that the number of cases investigated in Uyo Division is as follows:

	<i>Investigated</i>	<i>Convicted</i>	<i>Acquitted</i>
Uyo ..	139	29	14
Abak ..	61	11	5

Owing to the effort of the Police these dangerous practices are less rampant now. Therefore I would like to appeal to the Police Authorities not to relent their efforts but to continue checking these offences until they are properly stamped out.

Mr Chairman, Sir, that is why I am humbly asking that a sub-police post be established at Northern Anang rural district council headquarters because two court messengers in 1957, one treasury clerk and a market master were shot down. Since then these people have been threatening the lives of people and property in that area.

Again, Sir, I understand the Inspector-General of Police is considering the possibility of posting a Sub-Inspector to command a detachment at Abak and I say Sir, that the sooner this is done the better. In order to ensure efficiency and to check this evil practice in Abak, the strength of the Police in Abak should be increased in order that the police might patrol the Uyo-Abak road from where these people come. (*Interruption*). I challenge the hon. Member Mr Una to say that all the reports received by the Prime Minister regarding night marauders do not involve

people from the Uyo area. That is why this thing is happening still and there has been no cure for it.

Mr Chairman, Sir, having said that I want to touch one other point, and that is the relationship between the Traffic Police and vehicle owners. Motor owners are at the mercy of Traffic Police. I can quote an instance of some lorries which were passed out in June of this year and in July of this year those lorries were dragged with the drivers to the Police Station. Drivers were threatened that they would be charged with driving lorries with worn out tyres. The most astonishing thing. . . . (*Interruption*)

**The Chairman**: Order, order. The Committee must really carry on its work sensibly and quietly. We are making no progress.

**Mr Udom**: When those lorries were road-worthy their tyres were all new. How do you expect new tyres costing between £30 and £40 to wear out in one month? I suggest the Traffic Police should be warned to use their initiative in dealing with vehicle owners and that their duty is to tell members of the public what to do and what not to do. It is only when those people prove stubborn that they should be brought to Court for trial. In this case, tyres bought new in June are condemned in July. I am not here to condemn the Police but I am referring particularly to the Traffic Police, on this particular occasion when they should have used their initiative. I do not think those folk were really brought to Court and they knew the reason why they were brought to the Police Station.

Mr Chairman, I support the expenditure under this Head.

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola, Afolu II** (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, I would like to touch upon a point which I am sure will create an amount of interest in this House. A few months ago I was going back to my home town. I stopped on the Ikorodu Road on the left-hand side and a policeman approached me and said, "Master, we have had very little to-day, would you give me some *dash*?" I was so ruffled that day that I forgot to take his number. He begged for money and I do not know how many Members have witnessed such a thing. I think the moral instructions should be taught to policemen that they do not go about begging for money.



There is an incident that happened in Abeokuta. It is an incident of child stealing. The only daughter of one Mr Shomolu; the girl is aged sixteen years. She reported at school that she was going to the hospital to take medicine and since then her whereabouts have not been traced. Mr Chairman, there is no doubt that child stealing in this country is on the increase. I wish the police would do something to check this menace.

Mr Chairman, I said the other time that certain policemen have been doing very good work. I had an incident about the month of May just beyond the bridge forty-two miles between Lagos and Ibadan. As I stopped my car on the right-hand side, I saw a police jeep and heard a voice from the loud-speaker saying "Car No. IK. 177, you are almost in the middle of the road. Will you keep your side". What I want to point out is that this policeman, No. 1574, did not know that I was in the car. I was not even on the middle of the road. I stopped the car and when he came down and saw me he said he was sorry. What was he trying to do? He was trying to terrorise my driver in order to take some money from him.

The other night there was an outbreak of fire in one of the stalls at Sandgrouse Market. According to information it took some time before the fire could be quenched. The fire, I understand, was not put out until the following morning. Mr Chairman, I am of the opinion that the Fire Brigade of the Police should be strengthened, so that any outbreak of fire in the township of Lagos could be successfully arrested.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to appeal to the Prime Minister. He has been kind enough in the past to provide water for the Police barracks at Shagamu. We had electricity in December in Shagamu, but this electricity supply has not been given up to the Police quarters. I wish to appeal to him to use his good influence to make it possible for the Police barracks at Shagamu to be supplied with electricity. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not intend to answer all the points, though I would say, Sir, that I agree with my

hon. Friend about Police uniforms. The Police Council is also very anxious that we have a better Police uniform (*Hear, hear*)—though when we shall have the new Police uniforms I do not know.

Sir, the points have been made and they are recorded in the *Hansard*, and we will take whatever action we can on them. But may I remind the Committee that to-day we must reach Head 38 and now we are only on Head 25.

£55,110 for Head 25—Police—agreed to.

*Sitting suspended* : 4.43. p.m.

*Sitting resumed* : 5 p.m.

#### HEAD 26.—THE PRIME MINISTER

*Question proposed, That £4,580 for Head 26—The Prime Minister—stand part of the Schedule*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, in speaking to this Head I would like to deal with the Federal Training Centre. Mr Chairman, Sir, about two years ago the Federal Training Centre was established in Lagos with 200 students. The purpose, we were informed, was for the rapid training of students to qualify for entrance into institutions of higher learning for the study of engineering and science subjects. At that time Sir, we were informed that a short while after ninety-two were admitted, bringing the total number to 292. Now Sir, on the 12th of March this year, we were informed that four of them had done so well that they had completed their course ahead of schedule and were awarded scholarships into Universities for studies in Engineering and Science subjects. And on that very day the House was promised that more would be ready before long.

Now, Mr Chairman, Sir, the idea of that Centre is a very welcome one indeed and is a sure sign of Government's awareness of the pressing need at this time for knowledge in the field of science and engineering. What one wonders about, Sir, is this. Is the country to be assured that when at the end of the second academic year the products will number 162 students, assuming that they all proved successful in their examination results, is there any ready arrangement made for their admission into our institution of higher learning?



**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): You are talking about the Emergency Science Training Scheme. This is for the Training Centre. You are talking under the wrong Head.

**Mr Akwiwu**: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Head I am talking on is the Federal Training Centre. Now training is training, Sir. I have made the initial points I wanted.

The second point I would like to make, Sir, is this. We would like to know what progress has been made in the Federal Training Centre. One has read from time to time a few names in the Gazette of people qualifying; but I think, Sir, that it will be most gratifying and very reassuring to the House to know what amount of success has been achieved and to be assured that at least by the time the next House meets it should be able to see even on the Reporters desk the outcome of the training scheme. Furthermore, Sir, I think the need for the type of people produced in the Federal Training Centre is all over the country. I do not know, Sir, if this Government in its own scheme is co-operating with the other Governments of the Federation and whether there is some form of concerted effort to tackle the problem on a nation-wide scale. I think, Sir, that it might well be at a time like this that the need might be pressing all over, but there might come a time in the not too distance future when, if we are not careful we would have over-committed ourselves in some of these schemes. I think, Sir, that it would be to the greater advantage of this country as a whole if the various training schemes would be reconciled with one another, and if possible produce some common centre and some common standard and get a scheme that would be countrywide and could be modified from time to time to meet the needs of the country.

Finally, Sir, I would like to pay tribute to the Prime Minister of the Federation whose Head of Estimates we are now debating. Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no doubt that he is a gentleman for whom the country has very high esteem and very great admiration for the work which he has done while in office (*Hear, hear*). If I may say this, yesterday and the day before yesterday there was a number of people waiting outside to catch a glimpse of the Federal Prime Minister. They have never seen him before and some people who had come from the East were among those waiting from about 10 o'clock in the morning till about

12 o'clock they intimated me of their desire and I did hint them that they might have to wait until about one o'clock to see the Federal Prime Minister.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu** (Awka): Let him tour the country, tell him that now. He has never toured the East.

**Mr Akwiwu**: Mr Chairman, Sir, the country would very much like to see our Prime Minister for whom they have very great admiration. Sir, the Prime Minister so far has not had occasion to pass through my Division, but I think it is a pressing need. The people in the East would like to see the Federal Prime Minister and it is my fervant hope that within the very short time left, he might find occasion to present himself to some of our people outside Lagos. Particularly, he might find occasion to visit the Shell BP at Owerri or the Industrial Estate at Port Harcourt or our prospective Niger Bridge site. We do hope that he will find time to see the people of the country.

**Mr M. A. Sanni** (Oshun South): Mr Chairman, as time is passing rapidly I will begin with the end. Before this House adjourns *sine die*, I am asking this august House to pass a cordial vote of confidence in our Prime Minister (*Hear, hear*). This is a most important Head of the Estimates as it deals with the head of our ministerial Government. You will agree that during the Government of Sir Abubakar the wheels of economic activity of this country have been turning rapidly with the result that the goal is about to be reached. What is the goal? It is the raising of the standard of living of the people of Nigeria. . . .

**The Chairman**: That really is not the type of speech which is meant for a Supplementary Estimate.

**Mr Sanni**: I am dealing with the Head which is exclusively for Prime Minister. Now, I said that I would begin with the end. I would emphasise that a cordial vote of confidence be passed on the Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (*Applause*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

£4,580 for Head 26—The Prime Minister—agreed to.

#### HEAD 27—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

*Question proposed, That £18,230 for Head 27—External Affairs stand part of the Schedule.*



**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Prime Minister to tell the House the difference between the appointment of three senior trade officers attached to the London Office and the Commercial Officers sent also from Nigeria and attached to the London Office. Do all these officers work separately or are doing the same job ?

If so, is the work not being unduly duplicated ?

**The Chairman** : On which sub-head or item is Chief Onyia talking ?

**Chief Onyia** : I am just talking to supplement the speech on the Budget made last February.

*Question put and agreed to.*

£18,230 for Head 27—*External Affairs*—*Agreed to.*

#### HEAD 28.—NIGERIANISATION OFFICE

*Question proposed, That £130 for Head 28—Nigerianisation Office—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Jalo Waziri** (Gombe) : I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Government for the progress that is made in Nigerianisation. In particular it is gratifying to note that the Federal Government is proposing to train Nigerians of lower academic qualification for more senior posts in the Federal Public Service. And I am greatly surprised that there is not a single Northern Nigerian in the more senior posts. In the interests of justice and fair play I call upon the Government to encourage more Northern Nigerians of experience to join the Federal Public Service. And what is more, give Northerners a preponderant share in the Federal Scholarship awards.

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola Afolu II** (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Chairman, I would like to make a point, Sir, on this Head. The other time there was an announcement to the effect that three of our young men have been promoted to what was known in the old times as Resident grade. I understand that these three persons are working in the Office of the Prime Minister. But, Mr Chairman, that is not enough. The other time when I went to the Office of the Prime Minister, I found that there were car parks for so many officers. You find Senior Principal Assistant Secretary (External Affairs), Senior Principal Assistant

Secretary (Internal Affairs), Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary (External Affairs), Secretary to the Prime Minister, and so on. On the whole, Sir, you find that all these people are Europeans.

Now the Report of the Nigerianisation Committee is out and it is only laid on the Table and is not one for discussion at the present time. I hope that when the time comes, the question of Nigerianisation will be given due attention.

Now, Sir, the other time there was an agitation from expatriate senior officials for more pay, more allowances and less work, and plenty of coffee. We cannot afford it, Mr Chairman. Rather than do this, our men should be trained to hold senior service posts in the civil service. There is at present the training course for shorthand typists and confidential secretaries. The pace at which this section of the Prime Minister's Office is proceeding looks to me rather slow. I had hoped that better results would accrue from the past shorthand and typewriting examinations which took place about three months ago. I hope that the Prime Minister will look into this matter and make sure that the pace of Nigerianisation is accelerated.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, under this Head I have two points to make. One is the notice that the Report on Nigerianisation has been laid on the Table of this House ; and once it was laid on the Table a Member asked the Government to make time for it to be debated. And as the foreword says here, the Government has published it to enable the public to know what is contained there and then to have some time to consider it.

The Government has not expressed its own views. I am not saying that it should do that now. But I want the assurance from the Prime Minister that between now and the time the new House will meet in January no statement from the Government based on the Report will be issued such as will prejudice the future debate on the implementation of this Report, in case it is accepted by the new House. I say, Sir, of course, by this I am not accusing the Government but the administration. There are very clever people there that have been in the game for a long time. In case that becomes necessary, even if it means summoning the House before its official dissolution to deal with it, the



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]  
Government should do so. Therefore, I want an assurance that nothing will be done by the administration or the Government that will be prejudicial to the fair and proper debating and analysis of the Report and the contents thereof.

The second point I want to make, Sir, is this. You will notice that the Report said that one of the omissions you will find there will be the aspect dealing with personal secretaries—that is secretary-typists and confidential secretaries. These are not a department; they are just attached to every section. In Nigerianisation this is one important section that must be Nigerianised in an independent country. However important and secret a document may be, even the Prime Minister's most secret and State document, will be known by the secretary-typist. In other words, whatever you know, your personal secretary knows. Consequently, whoever is your personal secretary, whether man or woman, must be a person of integrity and somebody who will not be able to divulge a secret. And when you are talking about Nigerianisation, I think the Government must take this into serious consideration in training Nigerians, either men or women, for the purpose of this very important type of job, because as soon as the country becomes independent you begin to post your ambassadors here and there, you require nationals who have identity of interest. It would not be in the best interests of a nation to have this important arm of the Government and administration left in the hands of foreigners. So, I think, Sir, as far as Nigerianisation is concerned, this particular aspect should be treated most seriously and a scheme should be devised to include Nigerians who have had either their school certificate or post-secondary qualification, whether young men or women, who are interested in this and who have sound education.

Another thing I want to mention in connection with that is that we have not got translators of our languages. Those of you who have attended International Conferences will remember that there are interpreters so that the people who do not understand your own language follow as you go on. So the Government should take into consideration this aspect of Nigerianisation of the Public Service.

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): I really do not see

what has called for this request from hon. Jaja Wachuku for an assurance that the Government should do nothing to prejudice or influence the future Government on the Report of this Nigerianisation Committee. All that I did was to ask that the Report be printed and distributed to Members. I think that is the only fair way to the Members of the Committee and to the Members of the present House. It is a subject in which all the people in Nigeria are interested. They have heard the Report has been submitted to the Prime Minister, and if the House sits and disperses without any idea about this Report, I do not think they will like it

I would like to say, Sir, that the Report was submitted to me—I appointed the Committee. If it is necessary for the present Government to make its comments on the Report, there will be no doubt that the Government will make its comments in such a way that it would not bind the new House or the future Government. Well, I hope this is a problem which will continue to recur until the whole service is Nigerianised, and therefore I do not regard the present Nigerianisation Report as a final report. We might have another look into the problem. Of course, I agree with the hon. Member that the Report is laid on the Table of the House and any Member can call for a debate on it. But there is not just the time to debate the Report, and the Government have not got the time to examine it in detail.

I would like to say this to the House, Sir that when we have time to study the Report, we shall make known our comments.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Head which we are now debating; I would like the Prime Minister to allay the rumours that we have heard that the staff of the Nigerianisation Office is being depleted. There are certain officials in that office who have been very active and who have been of very great help in all the probing that we have done, and it is not fair that some of them will be dispersed. If any office is to be strengthened, it is the Nigerianisation Office. And I would like the assurance from the Prime Minister that rather than weaken this office, it will be strengthened so that they can do their work to the satisfaction of the country.



**The Prime Minister :** Mr Chairman, Sir, one would have thought that the Nigerianisation Office is a dying office because there will be no need for a Nigerianisation Officer if the whole service is Nigerianised. But until then, we will keep the office going and I want to allay the fears of the hon. Member that such a thing will not happen.

**Mr D. N. Chukwu (Agwu) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to make a brief remark. I do want the Government to give more training to geologists, mining engineers and water engineers. I feel that these three offices are really very important. I just want to be brief. I would like the Government to give preference to the training of Nigerians as geologists, mining engineers as well as water engineers. I am very serious on this matter, and I just want to put it before the House.

£130 for Head 28—Nigerianisation Office—  
agreed to.

HEAD 29.—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND AVIATION

*Question proposed, That £59,800 for Head 29—Ministry of Communications and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Alhaji Baba Danbappa** (North East Central Kano) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment that £10 be reduced from this Head.—Radio Distribution Service (Maintenance). I could only remember, Sir, that last time we were here we approved the sum of £10,000. This is really a very large sum of money. I am sure if some of the Members come across this money openly, most of them will run. We cannot continue to come and approve sums of money to the tune of £10,000 every time we meet, as if we are putting a drop of water in the ocean.

The Radio Diffusion Service is a very bad service in the whole of the Northern Region. I am sure it is also bad in the Eastern part of the country. What is happening is that people are paying rental fees to the P. and T. Department but unfortunately they are not getting good service for the money that they pay. One wonders what is happening with this money. I could remember that for the last three or four years in Kano people applied for boxes and they could not get them, and the ones that have been in use in Kano are almost out of use, and the Government con-

tinues to get rental fees from the unfortunate owners. And whenever it rains there are lots of complaints from the people that these boxes are not working properly. There are one or two linesmen in Kano who go from one corner to another practically doing nothing because they are just no use. And what is this money for, £19,000?

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am of the opinion that if this Head be removed from here. . . . (*An hon. Member : the Head of the Minister ?*)—and this radio distribution service be given to a private firm, I am sure the people will understand the difference between a commercial concern and a Government organisation. The Government organisation if always filled up to the top with high ranking officials doing paper work and getting a lot of money for doing practically nothing. What is this? Service to the community? They pay for it; they must get the service, otherwise it is not good at all. If you pay for a thing and you do not get it, I am sure nobody will like it. People are paying this money and they are not getting the service. If the Government cannot do anything about it, give it to private people that can give to the people fair service.

With this view, Sir, I would like the Minister to give us an assurance that this money will be used properly and to the best interests of the public, otherwise we will not approve this expenditure. £10,000 is a lot of money.

I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : Mr Chairman, in supporting this amendment I would like to say that discrimination exists in the distribution of radio service. For example, I have in mind the type of loudspeakers or radio we get at Port Harcourt. It does not compare favourably with those that the Minister supplied in Oshun Division, the constituency of the Minister. Mr Chairman, the loudspeakers we have at Port Harcourt are too bad and I am appealing to the Government to see that these ones are changed as soon as possible.

There is another irregularity which exists in this Ministry. It is the question of postal facilities. During the last two months, Mr Chairman, in one week the Minister of Communications and Aviation opened at Oshun Division eight Post Offices,



**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Eight! Namely.....

**Mr Okay**: I say that discrimination and irregularity exist and I am here to appeal to this hon. Legislature to see that the salary of this hon. Minister is reduced or he is sacked from the Ministry. I support the amendment.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma** (Aba): What I want to add in supporting this amendment is this. May I know why the radio distribution service or rediffusion service is not extended to my constituency—Aba. Many a time I have asked the question and there is no reply to it. There is no rediffusion service in Aba. Many people there are very anxious to get one and I do not know why the Ministry has given deaf ears to our request. I would like to get an explanation to-day before I go so that I might have something to say. Otherwise the giving of £10,000 for the maintenance of this service in other divisions gives me a lot of displeasure unless I have an explanation as to why it is not given in Aba.

I would like the Minister to take note that several times I have made this request and there are many people here who would like to contribute to it and to know the reason why this type of amenity should be given to one town and denied the other. There would be even distribution of amenities and advantages and I would wish before this House rises to get an explanation from the Minister.

**Mr G. O. Ebea** (Ishan): Mr Chairman, I wish to appeal on behalf of telephone subscribers in rural areas. These people enjoy only seven and a half hours of telephone service in their areas while those in towns and cities enjoy twenty-four hours, but the amount of rental fees payable is one and the same. These people in the rural areas feel that they have been unduly cheated and they are asking the Minister to reconsider the amount of rental paid.

**The Chairman**: May I just know whether the hon. Gentleman is speaking about telephone or radio diffusion service?

*Amendment proposed.*

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that I should give a brief word of explanation in connection with the system of rediffusion in the North and in the East.

**Several hon. Members**: What of the West?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation**: Well, I am coming to that. I will limit myself to the North and the East and I will say why if only you will bear with me.

We are advised by experts that the medium wave broadcasting affords the best and most economical way of developing sound broadcasting facilities for ordinary listeners in this country. The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation expects during the current financial year to provide medium wave transmissions at all existing provincial studio centres from which wired distribution systems are operated and is considering plans for similar transmission in new centres. Appropriate receiving sets can be bought for six pounds each and these sets are becoming increasingly popular. Wired systems are much more expensive to maintain and it is undesirable to multiply poles and wires in public thoroughfare.

In and around Ilorin the present radio diffusion service is maintained by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation and has approximately one thousand subscribers. The service in Lagos and the Western Region with approximately fifty-three thousand subscribers is maintained by Messrs Rediffusion Nigeria Limited. In the North and the East the service is maintained by the Federal Ministry of Communications and Aviation. There are 3,511 subscribers in the North and 3,693 in the East. In the North and in the East the rental is only five shillings a month as against nine shillings a month in Lagos and in the Western Region. The cost to the Federal Ministry of Communications and Aviation of providing service in the North and in the East is over £60,000 a year but the income is only £20,000 a year. Because the difference between revenue and expenditure is so large and because the Ministry can very ill spare staff for matters still the maintenance standards are low and if the service is to continue an entirely different arrangement would have to be made. In other words, the proposals made by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation would have to be accepted.

Now, at the moment, the Ministry of Communications and Aviation subsidises the service in the North and in the East to the tune of £30,000 a year. In Lagos and the Western



Region this service is handled by a private agency which is the Rediffusion Nigeria Limited. Now, the same standard of efficiency could be maintained and would ultimately be maintained in the North and in the East if the proposal submitted by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is accepted. This proposal is to turn over to the medium wave broadcasting. In other words, every subscriber would have his own private receiving set and the price of the box has been made very economical and it has been brought within the reach not only of the rich but also of the poor. We are advised that a box will cost only six pounds and it will not be necessary for you to have electric power to make it work. Ordinary dry cell battery will make it work and it will be as receptive as anything which you now receive in the West or in Lagos, and they will be available in due course both in the North and in the East.

Well, there would be two advantages accruing from this system. One is that the present poor standard of reception is going to be eliminated completely. The standard of reception will improve considerably if this new method is adopted and, (2) it will no longer be necessary for the Federal Ministry of Communications and Aviation to subsidise this service. It could have been my desire for the Rediffusion Nigeria Limited to spread its wings to the North and to the East but they are commercial people, private people, and I think the whole field is quite open to them. If they feel they want to spread then in consultation and in co-operation with and with the consent of the Regional Governments they are perfectly at liberty to give the service where such service is required.

Now, the next point is this. I understand that reception in the North is not quite good. It is a pity and I feel that is correct but if it has been permissible to say that an hon. Member lies I would have said so, but since this is contrary to the Standing Orders of this House I would say that my hon. Friend Mr Okin has been guilty of the gross offence of terminological inexactitude. And with apology to Winston Churchill and not to "Shaky Shaky" this time. I opened only two Post Offices in Oshun Division within the last two years and I am quite sure that in the mathematics of my hon. Friend two will not be equal to eight.

Yes, I understand that two times four will be equal to eight but hon. Jaja Wachuku is an expert in grandiloquent oratory, not in mathematics.

As far as the question of Airways is concerned, I have availed myself of the opportunity of explaining a good deal when I had the opportunity of doing so and I had thought that I would have greater opportunity of going into details on this occasion, but I have had these merciless speakers who did a lot to massacre time that they never allowed me the opportunity of saying more if I had been able to say more about Airways on this occasion. The fault is not mine. The fault has been due to some of my Friends, especially hon. Jaja Wachuku, who has specialised so much in flabbergasting and if any other occasion is given to me to explain in detail about the Airways, I am quite sure that I shall avail myself of the opportunity of doing so.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** You have Head 605.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** I am sure I will give all the necessary explanation.

**An hon. Member:** What are you looking for?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** I am looking for the point made by my hon. Friend about the services given and I am quite sure that the hon. Member will allow me the last minute left for me.

*And it being 5.45 p.m. the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order, (11th August), to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair and the further Question necessary to dispose of the Vote under consideration.*

*Question. That sub-head 29 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

*Question. That £59,800 for Head 29—Ministry of Communications and Aviation—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith successively the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 30 to 38.

HEAD 30—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

£94,140 for Head 30—Ministry of Education—agreed to.

HEAD 31—ANTIQUITIES

£5,610 for Head 31—Antiquities—agreed to.



HEAD 32—NATIONAL ARCHIVES

£860 for Head 32—National Archives—  
agreed to.

HEAD 33—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

£226,030 for Head 33—Ministry of Finance—  
agreed to.

HEAD 34—BOARD OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

£22,000 for Head 34—Board of Customs and  
Excise—agreed to.

HEAD 35—BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE

£10,270 for Head 35—Board of Inland  
Revenue—agreed to.

HEAD 36—OFFICE OF STATISTICS

£10 for Head 36—Office of Statistics—  
agreed to.

HEAD 38—PUBLIC DEBT CHARGES

£7,860 for Head 38—Public Debt Charges—  
agreed to.

Then the Chairman left the Chair to report  
Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

*Committee report Progress : to sit again  
Tomorrow.*

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question Proposed that this  
House do now adjourn—(The Minister of  
Works and Surveys)*

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu) : Mr Speaker,  
Sir, although I am aware that matters of  
transfer and promotion of civil servants are not  
matters for a Minister, yet in as much as a  
Minister has responsibility to secure the well  
being of all that work in the Departments under  
his control I have no hesitation to bring to his  
attention what is now happening in the Eastern  
Region. There is, I understand, a subtle move  
in the Eastern Region in the Posts and Tele-  
graphs Department to have people from one  
tribal group to dominate the essential key posts  
in the Posts and Telegraphs as well as in other  
Departments.

In pursuance of this policy those who hold  
such posts and who do not belong to this  
sectional group are moved to other Regions.  
In this connection Port Harcourt, Owerri  
and Abakaliki are to be dominated by this group  
referred to above. I am not sectional by  
nature and that is why I take a very serious

view of sectionalism in whatever form being  
injected into any aspect of our lives ; and we  
should reflect that we are one people and that  
sectional interest is but an accident.

There is a youngman, Mr H. A. Obu, who  
played a very important role in the training of  
new entrants into the Posts and Telegraphs  
Postal Section here in Lagos and later trans-  
ferred to the East. This person had at one time  
acted for the Postal Controller, Enugu, and  
we understand he is now to be transferred to  
Jos on his return from the United Kingdom  
under circumstances which raise doubts.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S.  
Okotie-Eboh) : On a point of order, Sir, I take  
it that the point made by my hon. Friend affects  
the Public Service and the Prime Minister is  
not here. He is the only one that can reply  
to it in this House.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : I think that is not a point  
of order.

**The Minister of Finance** : That is very  
material.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : That is not a point of Order.  
I will not yield.

**Mr Speaker** : I have a notice from Dr  
Mbadiwe that the Minister of Communications  
and Aviation will reply.

**The Minister of Finance** : I wonder, Sir,  
whether, according to Procedure and under the  
Constitution, the Minister of Communications  
and Aviation can answer questions that affect  
the Public Service.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : I will not yield, Sir, I do  
not know what order the Minister is speaking  
about.

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order ! The Minister  
of Finance is making his point.

**The Minister of Finance** : The point I  
am making is that the question of transfer  
within the Public Service of the Federation is  
the responsibility of the Prime Minister to  
answer in this House, and the Minister of  
Communications and Aviation, unless he has  
the agreement of the Prime Minister to answer,  
cannot reply. That is my point.

**Mr Speaker** : This is a case which the  
Minister of Communications and Aviation  
can reply to.



**Dr Mbadiwe :** Under normal circumstances no-one could question where a civil servant is posted but what is operating in the East needs the Minister's investigation. I admit that it may not be clear to the Headquarters in Lagos but it is now necessary to bring this to the attention of the Minister. It needs immediate adjustment and this is the matter which I wish to raise.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** (Chief S. L. Akintola): The point referred to me by hon. Mbadiwe is not a matter which in my opinion borders strictly on general policy on the employment of civil servants. He has got a servant of the Posts and Telegraphs in mind—the way he is treated by his Department. That was the question he put to me. If he had said that it was a question bordering on the policy of the Civil Service as a whole I am quite sure that I could not have consented ; for I, no less than my hon. Friend the Minister of Finance, know my constitutional limitations.

Now, there are 64 senior Nigerian officers of the P. & T. in the Eastern Region and their origin is as follows :—

Eastern Region	..	..	38
Western Region	..	..	14
Northern Region	..	..	Nil
Ghana	..	..	2

We have therefore 54. Of the 38 from the Eastern Region their actual origin is as follows :

Onitsha	..	..	..	17
Calabar	..	..	..	5
Awka	..	..	..	5
Aba	..	..	..	1
Bende	..	..	..	1
Bonny	..	..	..	1
Opobo	..	..	..	2
Arochuku	..	..	..	2
Udi	..	..	..	1
Okigwi	..	..	..	1
Owerri	..	..	..	2

That is how they are made up. There are 19 controlling posts in P. & T. in the Eastern Region filled by Nigerians, and in addition to these 19 there are 18 controlling posts filled by expatriates. Of the 19 controlling posts held by Nigerians 5 of these posts are filled by officers from Onitsha the remaining 14 posts... (Interruption)

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Point of Order. Order of relevance. The question posed is not what is being answered.

**An hon. Member :** They have conspired to expose Onitsha.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** I mentioned Onitsha because the question as expressed to me verbally by hon. Mbadiwe will have to be reflected in the answer given.

The five officers from Onitsha are all employed at Enugu ; one as Postal Controller, 3 as Assistant Controllers and 1 as Assistant Telecommunications Controller. Now the regional deployment of controlling officers is made by the Director of P. and T. and the actual deployment of these officers within the Region is the responsibility of the Territorial Controller, an expatriate who is impartial in this matter. The deployment does not depend on the origin of the officers. If it d'd there would be few Nigerian officers in the P. and T. division available for employment in the Northern Region. The deployment depends on the merit of the officer and to a certain extent on the leave situation. The fact that there are five controlling officers who hail from Onitsha in Enugu at the present time does not mean that that number will remain constant indefinitely. These officers are liable to be posted at any time to any other part of the country.

From this figure it will be observed that officers from Onitsha seem to be holding more controlling posts in the Eastern Region than officers from any other part of the Region. But Onitsha is one of the largest towns in the Eastern Region, and the fact that we have 5 Onitsha people holding these posts is no more significant than the fact that Onitsha is much more populous ; and perhaps in the race for education Onitshas might have started earlier than other people.

The hon. Member also mentioned one Mr H. A. Obu who has been transferred to Jos as a Senior Assistant Postal Controller, which is his own substantive rank, because it was presumed that he would be of greater success there than he had hitherto been where he was. There is no motive whatsoever in transferring staff from one part of the organisation to another.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at one minute to six o'clock.*



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## NIGERIA

Thursday, 13th August, 1959

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
ARMED FORCES

## Northerners in Nigerian Navy

\*O.179. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Prime Minister, how many Northerners have been recruited into the Nigerian Navy; how many of them are tradesmen, and how many of them have been sent overseas for training in their trades.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister:** Fifty one men have been recruited into the Royal Nigerian Navy from the Northern Region, of whom 3 are Tradesmen, 2 being Leading Engine Room Artificers and one a Radio Electrician.

One man from the Northern Region is at present undergoing training as a Radio Electrician in the United Kingdom, and 9 will follow in September this year for training in various specialities.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City):** Is the Minister aware that recently one Northerner who applied and was interviewed for appointment was rejected on the ground that he had a scar on his leg.

## POWER

## Niger Hydro-electric Project

\*O.195. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, when the River Niger hydro-electric project will be started, and whether it will supply electricity to all parts of the Northern Region including rural areas.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power:** The Working Party set up on the recommendation of the National Economic Council has examined in considerable detail the various alternatives proposed by the Consultants including multiple-purpose-schemes on the River Niger near Jebba, and a

hydro-electric scheme on the River Kaduna at Shiroro. Its unanimous recommendation is now being considered by the Governments of the Federation and the Electricity Corporation, all of whom, together with the Electricity Corporation, were represented on the Working Party. In the meantime, technical investigations are being carried out as speedily as possible on the sites involved so that immediately a decision by the Governments has been reached detailed design can begin.

It is intended that Electricity supplied by such a project will provide sufficient power for all needs including those created by rapid industrialisation in the major centres of population between Kano and Lagos by means of a transmission line which will extend between those towns. Although it may not be possible for technical reasons to supply all the minor rural centres directly with current from the hydro-electric project, it is expected that the surplus revenue which should be available as a result of this cheap electricity will, after a few years, make large sums available which could be utilized for greatly increasing the tempo of rural electrification. Efforts are already being made to develop suitable generating equipment for smaller centres of population, and such equipment is already operating at Badagry, and is now being installed at Bichi (near Kano) and Omoba (near Aba).

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Will the Minister give us an assurance that the final decision will be laid on the Table of this House to be debated before the implementation, as this will involve heavy expenditure?

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin):** Will the Minister give the number of years before rural areas will be considered.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1959-60)  
BILL (SECOND ALLOTTED DAY): CONSIDERED  
IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(House in Committee)

## HEAD 39.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

*Question proposed, That £81,210 for Head 39—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai (South West Kano):** Mr Chairman, Sir. . . . .(Interruption)



**The Minister of Health** (Hon. Ayo Rosiji) : I fail to see what the hon. Member is to reduce.

**The Chairman** : The hon. Member is entitled to talk on the Items of sub-head 1.

**The Minister of Health** : But he is reducing nothing.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : Point of Order, Sir. There are three new posts being created under sub-head 1 Item 65 (a) there is provision for one Assistant Records Officer, Item 65 (b) there is provision for one First Class Medical Statistical Assistant and under Item 96 (a) there is provision for four Secretary-Typists, and the explanation under Sub-head 1 states : "Twelve additional posts required for training Laboratory Technologists for the new Mainland Hospital". Certainly if the posts are required there must be money.

**The Minister of Health** : This money was voted in March. We are not asking for money.

**The Chairman** : I think the amendment must stand ; if it were carried, which the Government would probably not allow, it would be necessary for them to reduce somebody's salary by £10.

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I rise to move the amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper that Sub-head 1 of Head 39, Ministry of Health be reduced by £10.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in the first place the Minister's attitude towards my amendment is very deplorable. The purpose, Mr Chairman, of tabling this amendment is to bring to the notice of this House in general and to the Minister of Health in particular some anomalies that exist in the General Hospital in Lagos. Complaints have reached me, Mr Chairman, that Northerners who go there for treatment are being discriminated against.

**An hon. Member** : One Nigeria.

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** : That is the point. If we have one Nigeria, that section of the community is accorded equal treatment, then we have one Nigeria. But if that section of the community is down-trodden by another section certainly that is not 'One Nigeria'.

They complain that they do not receive adequate treatment and that they suffer a great deal before they get treatment. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think this is shockingly deplorable

especially on the eve of National Independence, for some people to maltreat others unduly. I hope the Minister will probe without delay into this matter and will do his best to remove this anomaly.

Mr Chairman, Sir, there is another point I should like to bring to the House, though it may be irrelevant, yet in exceptional circumstances it may be regarded as quite in order. The Kano N.A. General Hospital, the second largest in Africa South of the Sahara, is now in the process of being developed by the Kano Native Authority and the Northern Region Government is giving financial aid to the Kano N.A., and I wonder if due to the importance of this Hospital and due to the amount of work carried out in this Hospital, whether the Minister of Health will explore the possibility of recommending to the Federal Government to give the Kano N.A. financial assistance to carry out the development of the hospital.

**The Chairman** : This is a Regional subject. The hon. Member's remarks suggest that it is not a proper subject to deal with under this Head.

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** : Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I should like to end by congratulating the Minister, for he has given the undertaking that before 1st October, 1960, he will see that Lagos is very clean and that the congestion at the hospital is removed. But unfortunately, Sir, the attitude of the Party to which the Minister belongs can be guaranteed to blast any hopes the Minister may have cherished of making political success.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Dr E. O. Awduche** (Onitsha) : I rise to oppose this amendment. In the first place the Minister is not asking for any extra provision. The decision had been reached at the Budget Session on the question of provision and cannot now be revised unless the Ministry does specifically ask for a supplementary provision.

Secondly, the point of argument of the Mover suggests an increase. He was asking for Government to vote money to help an institution. I see that he was not really serious in moving the amendment.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Health for his



[DR AWDUCHE]

very outstanding progress made during the past two years in the health sector of the Economic Programme. Before that time the whole programme was at a stand-still and the progress which has now been made fully justifies the decision of the Prime Minister to split the former Ministry of Social Services into two separate portfolios the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. But for this split one wonders whether any progress would have been made at all in this sector. The Minister deserves our fullest congratulation. There is no wonder about that since the Minister himself is an Engineer cum Lawyer cum Politician cum Scholar and therefore fits into the right place.

Mr Chairman, Sir, may I seize this opportunity again for thanking Government for increasing the number of specialists. I would say that this is not enough with the expanding facilities in Lagos for medical and health accommodation and improving conditions. There is need now for more and more specialists, particularly in the field which deals with the younger members of the community, particularly the school-going class. There is need now for an increase in the number of eye specialists, nose or throat specialists to deal with the young generation.

With regard to the increase in the number of medical laboratory technologists, I would like to ask Government to further increase this so as to be able to supply practitioners in private practice. Mr Chairman, medical practice can hardly be carried out anywhere, particularly in the tropics, without laboratories. Most of the treatment given in outstations in the business of laboratory depends on experience and to a large extent guess work. If Government will undertake to train and supply practitioners in the field with laboratory technicians it will go a long way towards improving the standard of practice in this country.

Mr Chairman, may I seize this opportunity to request that in granting study leave and post graduate study facilities doctors in private practice, who are also bearing a good measure of the burden of medical treatment in this country, should be considered. After all, in Great Britain doctors in private practice are used in the health programme and not only assist in the day-to-day hospital management

but also in Universities where many of them go in as part-time lecturers. It would be a good thing if private doctors are also considered, even on fifty-fifty basis, in the question of post-graduate courses in medical post-graduate institutions on study leave.

Well, since the amendment is based specifically on item 1, I reserve my further statement and with these remarks I beg to oppose the amendment proposed by the Mover.

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola, Afolu II (Ijebu Remo)**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to refer to the item which provides for an additional sum of £65,030 as subvention for the University College Hospital. I have had the opportunity of going to the University College Hospital at Ibadan and I have been deeply impressed by the kind of treatment which is being given to patients in that hospital. The hospital, Sir, is in a class by itself in that one would like to look at the faces of the ladies who attend to people there. In that hospital . . . . . (*Interruptions*)

**The Chairman**: Order, order. Please do not go on interrupting. One laugh is enough and then let the hon. Member continue his speech.

**Oba Aiyeola**: Apart from the fact that the place is good you have specialists in that hospital. But, Sir, these days we have a great many number of our girls going to the United Kingdom to study midwifery and general nursing. At the University College Hospital, Ibadan ladies are being taken in for courses in general nursing for three and a half years, after which they go to the United Kingdom for one or two years to qualify in midwifery courses. I think the time has come when a full course in general nursing and midwifery is overdue in this country.

Mr Chairman a previous speaker has spoken about the post-graduate studies for private medical practitioners. I would like to underline this by imploring the Government to see that something is done to encourage our private medical practitioners to enjoy this bounty of Government. I know a great many of them who are experts in their line. They struggle to see that members of the public who fall into their hands receive good treatment but it is appalling that those of them who arrived in the country over twenty or thirty years ago cannot just leave their hospitals without getting someone to relieve them and



go to England to study. But if they have Government assistance, they will be able to hand over to fellow doctors who can take up their job when they leave and then pursue special courses in any branch of medical study.

There is in the United Kingdom to-day what is known as National Health Service. It being a civilised place I think such a system of national health service could be started in Lagos. People contribute per week or per month in England as they take their pay towards this National Health Service. These arrangements are made by wards or by streets or by Constituencies so that when a man is ill he goes to his own doctor or sends for him for treatment and then he pays little or nothing. Government can do something in Lagos so that we can have a national health service in due course. Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Amendment.

**M. Abdulkadiri Koguna, Wakilin Riyogi (East Kano):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I rise to support the amendment raised by hon. Members on two strong accounts. In the first place Lagos here is not healthy, and I think the Minister himself is not healthy otherwise he will not be wearing glasses unlike other people. Myself I am not feeling well. Why I do not like to go to hospital is that if I go there it will perhaps take me two hours to get treatment. That is why I prefer to sit here.

During last Budget session the Minister of Health was asked to try and expand hospitals in Lagos and to provide more doctors but he did nothing, absolutely nothing. Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Health has the least job among all the Ministers because he is just here in Lagos and looks after the University College Hospital, Ibadan only. Lagos is no good. You go to Ibadan, Mr Chairman, the Minister of Health rejected the whole people at Ibadan, one million people. The Minister of Health is only keen on going out to campaign to see about elections which he will not win. If he did something in Lagos or in Ibadan, where there is only University College Hospital, that would be all. Nobody sees him outside. When he goes to the North it is to campaign. Therefore I am strongly supporting the reduction of £10 from the Minister's estimates.

**Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I know the Minister of Health is a very energetic worker. I know him to be so.

But, Sir, I have a matter that I want to place before him in this House so that he may transmit it to the appropriate quarters. Obalende in Lagos here is becoming a blackman's grave because the place is so infested with mosquitoes that not one of us in that place can claim to be healthy to-day. There was a time when water was causing damage to houses and we prayed to the Government for gutters. In supplying the gutters they made such shallow gutters that water does not actually drain out. If the Minister goes to that area he will find that these gutters are full of water of all sorts of colours.

**An hon. Member:** Is that your constituency?

**Chief Yellowe:** I am a Nigerian and I am in the Federal House. It is causing great havoc to the lives of the people there, and I am asking the Minister of Health to look into this and perhaps ask the Lagos Town Council to take immediate steps to remedy the situation. As I have said before, the Minister of Health, I think, is doing all he can to provide hospitals. Those who go to Massey Street Dispensary will see what has been done there. There is an additional hospital. So I do not think he has been sitting with arms folded, but we need improvement. Let him look at Obalende and clear the mosquitoes there. I oppose the amendment.

**Mr F. U. Mbakogu (Awka):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to speak on sub-head 68—University College Hospital: subvention. Last year I praised the work done at the Teaching Hospital which I said was excellent and is still excellent. But I have to make this remark. It appears that there is a concentration of treatment for people from the Western Region. I do not say it is discrimination but it is a shifting of responsibility by the Regional Government to the University College Hospital which is bad enough. The Adeoyo Hospital and other hospitals round Ibadan are being left vacant and all simple cases of treatment are being transferred to the University College Hospital and serious cases from outside Ibadan and Western Region are left out for lack of space. I do not mind, I will not quarrel with any amount of money being approved for special cases at Ibadan. The Hospital was established as a Teaching Hospital. That is very important. As a Place where special complicated cases should be treated, and it is not meant for any patient just to go there on



[MR MBAKOGU]  
his or her own. Such cases should go through a doctor on the recommendation to transfer by a local doctor. But what obtains there is that everybody goes there for headaches, crawl-crawl, everything.

As I said last year when I had a serious car accident with a Member of the House I was not allowed, there was no space for me. The other man was unconscious. I was myself in a private house and from there I was being looked after by the Hospital authorities. That is very bad. My case required immediate attention, attention every second. There was no place for me and for two days I was kept in the Surgical Ward when there was no operation done on me, just because there was no space where I ought to have been placed. I am saying this that the Western Regional Government must not transfer its responsibility.

Every now and then we hear shouts of free health service to the people of the Western Region. There is nothing like that. I should charge the members of the Hospital Board to be alive to their responsibility so as to show the hospital authorities that the initial purpose of the establishment of that hospital is to bring complicated cases to the doctors in training and to eradicate cases that are very difficult for ordinary doctors that have no avenue for special cases to treat. What happens now is that when I was there I saw such things as tablets for headaches being given to patients. It is not a dispensary. The University College Hospital is not a glorified dispensary and it should not be made to look like that. I feel, and I felt at that time that it is a place to deal with special cases because there are recognised experts there and people from all over the country should have the benefit from their world wide experience. It should not be exclusive to people of Western origin. If they feel that the Hospital is for the people of Ibadan or the Western Region I do not see the reason why the Minister of Health introduced a Motion to debar the representative member of the Ibadan District Council. I am calling upon the Minister and the Hospital Board to see that the place is exclusively reserved for special cases. I beg to support.

**The Chairman :** I must point out that it is no use for a Member to send me a note asking me to call him if he does not rise in his place.

**Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South):** Mr Chairman, I rise to move that the item be reduced by £10. Lives: they are most valuable. And when they are lost, they are lost for ever. I am touching on a very serious matter, Sir, although I am doing so in the mildest manner. No doctor is ever available at night at the Creek Hospital for emergency cases. It takes a patient nearly one hour to get someone to tell him that the doctor is asleep, he had better go to the General Hospital.

**An hon. Member :** Are you speaking from experience ?

**Mr Sanni :** Of course, from experience. The General Hospital is better organised and better run. The doctors and some nurses are generally available for emergency cases. But there is one point. You see the doctor, he prescribes medicine for you but he says there is no dispenser to supply the medicine, and you should take this card and see the dispenser in the morning. Now, Sir, if the patient survives the scare of death till morning he sees the dispenser who will tell him : "Oh, we are out of stock," and he will direct you to a Chemist's shop. This is a very serious situation and I want the Minister to take note of it. I am talking from personal experience. Now, Sir, when Her gracious Majesty the Queen of England visited this country she said "I come to see your health, your industries and your education". Now if the greatest and noblest person in the British Commonwealth.....

**The Chairman :** There is a Standing Order which says that remarks must not be made in debate using the name of the Queen or the Governor-General in order to influence an argument. So let us leave Her Majesty out.

**Mr Sanni :** In fact I do not mention any name, my reference was only to reinforce my argument. If great personages can care for the health of the people of Nigeria, I wonder why a struggling medical practitioner from perhaps a Scandinavian cottage should not care a doit for the health of those people who feed him and his family. Sir, I am asking the Minister to see that the position is regularised at once, and that adequate supply of medicines to hospitals should be ensured and finally that he should see that hospitals' medicines should find no way to the market. Sir, I beg to move.



**Mallam Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this amendment. My remark, Mr Chairman, is of a general nature. We all know, Sir, that the Medical Department is one Department that we can safely say without any fear of contradiction has made very satisfactory progress in the field of Nigerianisation. I think, Sir, that the Government should be congratulated—not the Minister this time because it started long before he came to the Ministry. But it seems to me, Mr Chairman, that the Government has not been alert to the need of getting Medical students encouraged to take certain specialist training courses in certain specialist fields that are now very unpopular.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Medical Department is quite alright. We have got medical officers and for sometime to come I do not think the country will suffer for lack of medical officers in that Department. But I certainly do support that we should have more medical officers because we have a growing population in this country. So much for medical officers. But there are certain specialist fields that are very important indeed and those fields are very unpopular. They are unpopular because they are not so lucrative. There is no private practice in them. In other fields you can get the Medical Officers doing some private practice after their office hours, and that means a lot of money. It is absolutely necessary, Sir, to encourage our own medical students to take some interest in those fields. because after all if we do not do that it means that we will continue to employ expatriate specialists from overseas in order to do the work. The fields I have in mind, Sir, are Pathology, Dematology, Malariology and Anaesthetics and Medical Statistics. Those fields are very very unpopular. They are not so attractive and there must be some incentive created by Government in order to attract medical students to enter these fields so that they may be trained.

I might suggest that some special considerations should be given to those students who have agreed to take to this Specialist Training. It is only by so doing that we can get these people trained. If these students know that these fields are very difficult and there will be no private practice in these fields naturally they will not enter them, human nature being what

it is. But if they know that if they get trained, with all the difficulty in the training, they would be given some special consideration quite different from the ordinary consideration given to ordinary medical officers, I believe that would create an incentive which would attract these medical students to enter that field. But if you do not give that special consideration, I doubt if you will have any student forthcoming to enter these fields. They are extremely important fields and I would ask the Minister to look into this matter very seriously indeed.

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, I support this Head. While I support the statement of Mallam Maitama Sule, I would only add that it is true that our boys who are the students to be sent for specialist courses are ready and we have not encouraged them. Before we send the boys overseas for study to qualify as specialists, will not arrangements be made by the Minister to have many of these specialists in the country to treat the diseases which no specialists in the University College Hospital can treat at present? We have so many kinds of these diseases—bladder diseases, kidney diseases and all abdominal diseases like that—and we have not got many specialists in the University College Hospital to treat them. Could we not make arrangements to have specialists from abroad to treat these diseases until our students will be ready to take up the business from them?

Another point, Sir, is this. Many serious cases are now taken to the United Kingdom. This is because we have not got specialists in the hospital to treat these cases. Again, lack of equipment and all the rest of it in the hospital will not allow specialists in that University College Hospital to undertake all such serious cases. Will not arrangements be made now by the Minister to have special equipment in the Hospital? Although we cannot do all at the same time, yet we must start right now.

**Mr L. L. Lakunle** (Oyo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, even though I rise to support the amendment I beg to disagree with my friend hon. Mbakogu who insisted that only people from the Western Region were being treated in the University College Hospital. Mr Chairman, Sir, the fact is that there are times when the Hospital might be congested, but the cause is not that only people from the Western Region



[MR LAKUNLE]

occupy the beds but also people with serious cases from all over the country. If Mr Mbakogu could not be given a bed when he was sick, it was because his brothers and sisters, possibly from the East, the North and the Southern Cameroons occupied the beds. That is the first point I would like to make clear. I always want face the fact.

About two or three days ago a friend of mine was complaining to me saying, "You see, what they are doing in the University Teaching Hospital, is too bad, whenever you go there unless you are dying you cannot be admitted". And yet you people are saying here that only people from the Western Region go there with crawl-crawl and things like that and are admitted. I do not agree with that statement.

Now another thing that I would like to point out to the Minister is that when the Hospital at Massey Street was being built many people felt relieved that the congestion in that dispensary would be reduced. But to the amazement of everybody after the completion of that Hospital we still have congestion in the Massey Street Dispensary—two Mothers sharing one bed! I would like the Minister to see to this and to reduce congestion in the Massey Street Dispensary. Mr Chairman, I support the amendment.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Chairman, there is no doubt that as far as medical facilities are concerned in this country to-day the Ibadan University Teaching Hospital is certainly second to none. Only a few weeks ago we learnt of magnificent healing work done on the Minister of Transport and some other things like that have been done on other important personages of this country. One thing I would like to suggest, Sir, is this, that matters of health are not like law where the individual is left alone to fight the courts of the whole nation till his pocket is dry. That is where the unfortunate victim of some legal circumstance finances his own case to the Highest Court of Appeal and whatever point they are deciding might be of very great help in deciding a number of other cases for both rich and poor.

In the case of health, I think, Sir, that the situation is not altogether comparable to that. So, I feel, Sir, that the Minister should explain to us if any special arrangement exists whereby special cases from any part of the country could be rushed to Ibadan University Hospital at the minimum of expense to the person for

proper treatment that could not be got elsewhere in the country. It will be unfortunate if the Teaching Hospital is deprived of the opportunity of acquainting itself with complicated and strange cases as and when they arrive to the advantage of medical science simply because the victim at the time could not afford the cost of chartering a plane to be flown to Ibadan. If no scheme like that exists, I strongly suggest that something should be considered on those lines.

Again, Sir private practitioners are doing some very useful work. Admittedly they account to themselves for their fees, but no doubt they also play a very important part in the health of the society. Medicine is a science and like every other scientific subject it keeps advancing from time to time. I must say, Sir, the private practitioner buried in his practice from day to day, after a while might not acquaint himself as efficiently as possible with the latest developments in the healing science. Therefore it should be also one of the things to be considered by the Minister of Health to see what arrangements could be made for people in private practice at least to acquaint themselves with the latest practices available at the Ibadan University Teaching Hospital, if going abroad would be considered to be expensive. I think, Sir, that it would go a very long way in helping to put the nation in better health.

Another point I would like to make is on the question of inducement to professional men. The machinery of our administration and Government in this country is so dominated by administrators that people of a profession seem to be relegated to the background. The country complains about illicit practices or perhaps improper private practices and drugs finding their way out through improper channels, but I think that much as one cannot say that there is any one measure that would completely stop the tendency in human nature not to desist from what is wrong. I think we shall be going a long way towards easing the situation if we make sure that professional men are given such recognition in emoluments, otherwise that would bring more forcibly to them the honour of their professions and the seriousness and responsibility which the community entrusts to them, and the highest standard of conduct which they are expected to live up to.



**Mr L. A. Tobun (Epe)** : Mr Chairman, I rise to support the amendment. In doing so I would like to speak about private practice by the doctors in Government hospitals. I think this is the time for this House to think properly whether this House is not going to change its mind about the restriction that doctors in the hospitals could not do private practice. I say this because, since that restriction in the hospitals, you find Doctors doing private practice all about to the detriment of the hospital itself.

I would cite instances. During the war there was a shortage of local foodstuffs in the country. There was an order that from one area to another certain foodstuffs should not be removed. What happened? These foodstuffs were being smuggled and sold in those areas at very exorbitant prices, so that the thing we were trying to guard against, we failed and the people suffered a lot. I think that although we must make laws and regulations here, it depends on how the people react to the laws and regulations made in this House. To my mind the doctors in the General Hospital are still doing private practice. I think it is wise for this House to think again if this is not the time for us to relax a little bit the question of this restriction on the doctors working in the hospital. We said that they must not do private practice in the hospital, but the doctors make private arrangements somewhere and bring the people to the hospital, using hospital drugs.

It is necessary to consider if this is not the time for us to relax this regulation a little bit. Here is a man earning £1,000, and you give him £2,000, and he still indulges in the thing; he will continue to do it even if you give him £10,000 and can never be satisfied with any amount of money. That is what I would like to say on that point.

Another point is that about this time last year I went to the hospital and I saw in-patients wearing uniform like that of prisoners, because in the compound of the hospital I could not differentiate between a prisoner and an in-patient, so that the out-patients and the in-patients, when they come there, are both regarded as prisoners. I think the Minister should think about this thing seriously. It is a year ago that I mentioned this matter, and this year it is still there. I am not saying that

we should try to get an expensive uniform, but try to get a grey-baft and build it in a way different from that of the prisoner.

**The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji)** : Mr Chairman, I would like to preface my reply to the various speeches that have been made here this morning by saying that I have never at any time held out that health in Lagos is perfect. We still have a very long way to go. But I would like to say that I maintain that within the past two years there has been a great deal of improvement, especially in the curative service.

A good deal can be said about the sanitation of Lagos which will be to the detriment of this country. I have in my mind that the next phase of our medical development in Lagos will be on the preventive side. That I consider is the more important aspect because if we concentrate on the preventive aspect, we shall not need very many hospital beds: people would not need to go to hospital. The sanitation of Lagos, I must admit, is pretty awful in places. We have a scheme which we are now preparing and which we want to put into effect in the next development programme.

**Several hon. Members** : You will not be there. How do you know you are coming back?

**The Minister of Health** : I would like to say for myself, in reply to Mallam Muhtari Sarkin Bai, that I consider as dangerous the statement which he made here about discrimination against Northerners in the hospitals. The hospitals here are open to everybody, and if I were to accept the allegation which was made here by Mallam Muhtari Sarkin Bai, I would take it extremely seriously. But I am not prepared to accept that allegation because no specific case has been mentioned. It is very dangerous to make such general allegations. If any Member has any specific case, he should please make it and you will be assured that you will have lightening treatment and it will be a very serious matter indeed. But I can assure the hon. Member that there must have been some misunderstanding. I am sure that there was no case of discrimination against any national of this country.

Now, Dr Awduche has spoken on the shortage of specialists in our hospitals. I agree that we need more specialists, but I say that we also need more ordinary medical officers,



## [MINISTER OF HEALTH]

I do not want us to be top heavy. We need medical officers who will treat the ordinary day-to-day illnesses of the people, and they in the long run are more important than the specialists because we have more of the ordinary illness than the cases which require specialist treatment. But at the same time we are training more and more of our people, sending them to wherever they can acquire the necessary knowledge, but we cannot send too many at a time because we must have people here to carry on the work. At the moment we are sending abroad the maximum that we can send ; we cannot do more.

As far as laboratory technologists and other ancillary professionals are concerned, we are in difficulty, I must admit, in recruiting people of the required calibre, and the reason has been pointed out here, and that is that that aspect of the work is not particularly attractive. It is our intention to make it more attractive so that more of our people can take up this line. But I would like to say, not only for the benefit of Members here but also for people outside this House, that there must be a sense of service. Money is not everything. If we are going to attract them by money only, they would not do the work well. More of our people develop interest in this light. That is the only way that we can do it. I say here that I do not intend to give private medical practitioners study leave. I cannot do it. It is impossible. If they want to acquire further knowledge of their profession, they can pay for it. They are helping us to work in hire-practice, but at the same time they must have an interest in the profession itself.

The point that was made by hon. Akwiwu is similar to that to which I have just replied, and I should like to say that the doctors should look after themselves in this country such as lawyers (to which profession the hon. Member, Mr Akwiwu, belongs). They have an organisation and that organisation should be able to organise lectures, seminars and all sorts of things to bring the doctors into line with contemporary medical development. The Government cannot do everything for everybody, and least of all doctors who should know better.

Now, the hon. Oba Aiyeola mentioned national health service. I cannot guarantee that national health service will be carried out

in this country. It cannot be the best way of providing free medical service to the people. (*Interruptions.*) Mr Chairman, hon. Members want to forestall me. In any case I shall go on with my case. It cannot be the best way of doing it. It will be left to the people of this country, if they really want free health service, to vote for people who will introduce the service which has been well worked out, and I not just copy blindly from anywhere. (*Interruptions.*) I have implicit confidence in the good sense and responsibility of the people of this country and I have no doubt that they will do justice and vote into power here in this House people who already have the plan.

Now, the hon. Mbakogu has said here that only people in the Western Region are being treated in the University College Hospital. That, I need hardly say to the Members of this House, is untrue. But I would like to go further to say that the main purpose of the University College Hospital is to teach students, and I say further that the people who are in charge there, I have confidence in their ability and they have to choose the cases which they consider best for carrying out this purpose. They select these cases in the out-patients department and they are specialists in their line, and hon. Mbakogu knows nothing about medicine.

The last point I would like to make is to correct an error. When I spoke here at the last meeting of the House, I told the House what the building which we have just put up at Massey Street is for. I see that a confusion still persists. That building is not for maternity cases. The Massey Street Dispensary is for maternity cases. The Polyclinic is for out-patient cases, built and operated with the intention that the out-patient department in the General Hospital here will be considerably relieved. At the moment we are treating in that Polyclinic up to 700 cases every day, and that has made a general improvement in the General Hospital out-patients department. The condition which the hon. Member referred to in the General Hospital out-patients department is not unknown to this House, and I know this House will remember that I have taken adequate precaution to relieve the congestion in the General Hospital by building the maternity hospital which is now fast going up in Broad Street. That hospital,



when completed, will have 200 beds, but the Massey Street Dispensary now only has 74 beds. That building is now being roofed and I hope it will be completed by December and will meet the need, at least at the moment, of the Lagos community. (*Interruptions.*)

**The Chairman :** I must point out to the Committee that there is slightly less than four hours' debate left for to-day.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, when the late Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu was the Minister of Health in Lagos, all was well for the people of Lagos. But through the backdoor they managed to get an Action Group Minister now on that Bench there to be the Minister of Health. How can he get things done in Lagos when the Minister, instead of sitting in his Ministry, leaves Lagos touring the whole country, distributing stockfish in the Eastern Region, distributing sugar and salt in the Northern Region, distributing money and garri in the Western Region, and money in Lagos. We hope that he is neither coming back to this House nor continuing to be there.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as for the doctors in the hospitals, they must decide whether to continue to do their work or to go into private practice. The doctors go to the hospital with their complementary cards in their pockets distributing them to patients in the hospital and asking them to meet them either at Abule Ijesha or at Campbell Street. It is not fair for the money we are paying the doctors in the hospital. Some of them would even smuggle Government drugs into their own private dispensaries.

**Dr E. O. Awduche** (Onitsha) : Point of order, Sir, doctors do not smuggle drugs from hospitals.

**The Chairman :** That is not a point of Order.

**Mr Benson :** I am very grateful, Mr Chairman. You cannot expect to have anything responsible from somebody who has crossed from the N.C.N.C. to the Action Group.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

£81,210 for Head 39—Ministry of Health—*put and agreed to.*

**HEAD 40.—MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
*Question proposed, That £4,600 for Head 40—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.*

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (South West Kano) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper that Head 40 be reduced by £10. The only reason, Mr Chairman, Sir, for tabling this amendment, is to congratulate the Minister of Internal Affairs for the steps he has taken to build a first-class international hotel in Lagos. This is indeed a great tribute to the Minister, Mr Chairman, and the Minister should not stop at that.

Kano city, being an international city, should get the same hotel, because it has an international airport. Many people from all parts of the world come to Kano. Therefore the Minister should consider building a first-class international hotel which will compare favourably with any other hotel in the world. Only recently and, unfortunately, somebody was stabbed to death in one of the hotels in Kano. If there had been such an international hotel that murder would not have taken place. So I earnestly hope that the Minister will take this into consideration.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to confine my speech to Sub-heads 72 and 63. Mr Chairman, Sir, the £1,000 provided for the establishment of a factory for ex-Servicemen is a matter of great interest to me. I will never know who had this bright idea, but this I know, the ex-Servicemen will not appreciate this kind of worthless gratitude. Sir, I am one of them.

**An hon. Member :** That's right.

**Mr Okay :** What we want is a real and beneficial industry to absorb all war veterans, not only a niggardly and negligible capital of £1,000. For years we have pleaded with the Government to do something for veterans. In answer we are to be presented with a thousand pounds for a poppy factory for the production of poppies which are only symbolic of the great battle of members of World War I and World War II. We war veterans of the last war want resettlement and rehabilitation schemes, and this poppy factory is not such a scheme. It can only take not more than five disabled ex-Servicemen.



[MR OKAY]

Now, Sir, coming to sub-head 63, Nigerian ex-Servicemen Welfare Association: subvention, for which £3,000 is provided. Sir, the paltry provision of £3,000 for N.E.W.A. is not a provision that will please our ex-Servicemen. It is too meagre. Because of lack of funds the N.E.W.A. has not been able to initiate projects that would help to better the lot of suffering ex-Servicemen. The Government should be more generous. There are many disabled veterans who are demanding pensions or any form of compensation, but simply because funds are not available they are told that they are not qualified for pensions. The true story, however, is that the Government is tardy in providing funds. I hope, Sir, that next year the Minister will have a change of heart and have brighter ideas for war veterans. The hon. Minister himself knows the bitter struggle to survive, and perhaps this will win his sympathy for us.

The next appeal I wish to make to the Government is about the 2s arrears for ex-Servicemen. I appeal to the Government to get into negotiation with the British War Office. The payment of 2s arrears to the Nigerian ex-Servicemen should be made immediately.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on this Head. I would like to refer to sub-head 21, Item 1A—Pensions (Military) Assessment Board. This Board is a pensions assessment Board for disabled ex-Servicemen. I have said so many times in this House, Sir, that the ex-Servicemen's pension scheme is very very disgraceful, and meagre, when compared with pensions paid to other civil servants in Government service. Time and again ex-Servicemen's Union have vehemently protested on behalf of these disabled ex-Servicemen to the Government, to consider one way or the other an increase in the pensions paid to these men.

Nobody will deny the fact, Sir, that to-day this country is moving towards independence. ex-Servicemen have contributed their quota towards the independence of this country, and this type of people who have actually rendered their lives for the freedom of man should not be left to suffer; and the Minister, being an ex-Serviceman himself, even though not disabled, should remember his compatriots who

were with him in the service, but who, for one reason or another, are now not active enough in order to feed themselves. I hope that the Minister will put his foot down until something is done for these disabled ex-Servicemen. This is very important, and when people find themselves in a healthy atmosphere they should think also of those people who are unable to live a very good life because of their present condition. I hope this Government will do something to encourage these men.

My next point is the starting of the poppy factory, £1,000. I do not seem to understand what this means. I want to know whether this factory will absorb only ex-Servicemen. I would like an explanation from the Minister. If this factory is meant for the manufacture of poppies, which are always sold on Poppy Days, I would like to appeal to the Minister that he should see that mostly unemployed ex-Servicemen, roaming about the country to-day, should be employed, and I would like to see something like a hostel for ex-Servicemen. It is done in Great Britain, where all ex-Servicemen can meet together, and think of their future welfare. Ex-Servicemen have a part to play in the welfare of the country and in the forth-coming independence, and I hope the Minister will do something to find a place for them in the Independence Celebrations.

I would like a fund to be created where this type of hostel can be built for remembrance of the contribution of the ex-Servicemen during the world war, and also the contribution they have given for the freedom of this country.

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

*Sitting suspended: 11.30 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed: 11.50 a.m.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, over Head 40, I want to comment on sub-heads 63 and 72—Nigerian ex-Servicemen Welfare Association (Subvention) and the Establishment of Poppy Factory respectively.

On the question of establishing a poppy factory I do not know who thought of it. I think this is one of those unproductive and unnecessary projects. A poppy factory that produces something that appears once in a year; we do not want a factory that will only work once in a year. Surely it is not suggested



that a poppy factory will produce continuously from January to December in a year. I think this is absolutely unnecessary and this money could be better used in doing something else.

That brings me to Sub-head 63—Nigerian Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association (Subvention). Now we noticed in the approved 1959-60 Estimates a sum of £3,500 had already been voted for these Ex-Servicemen and now the Government intends to supplement it by an additional sum of £3,000 bringing it to a total of £6,500. There is a suggestion that instead of having this poppy factory that will be of no real value from our own point of view, this sum should be added to the money that has been given to them and if the Government intends to establish an industry that will be of benefit to the ex-Servicemen, let them say so. Vote a substantial sum of money to establish an industry and train up the ex-Servicemen—that will be their company and let them see that it runs properly and it will be yielding money for their welfare instead of putting in a subvention every year. Create a permanent industry for them; vote sufficient money and train them. Let them have their own directors, managers, so that we can always say that this is an institution that this Government has created for you and it is up to you to make the best use of it and do not come to us every year to ask for money.

And this question of 2s arrears; I do not know how much that will involve but I have had the experience of defending them so many times over this issue and so many of them go about causing trouble because they say they want democracy of the stomach and not political democracy, and I think that the National Council and the N.P.C. are in such a position now that they should be able to get this thing done for ex-Servicemen once and for all instead of every year asking us to vote money. We do not know who administers this money; whether the money is properly administered we do not know.

I am not imputing corrupt motive on those who are responsible for this Union but what the ex-Servicemen I know very well in the rural areas want—North, East, West and Lagos—is concrete project that will be productive. We want a productive industry, not a poppy factory

—a poppy which you put in your coat pocket and in two hours' time it disappears. We want an institution.

Mr Minister you are an ex-Serviceman and you know what they are suffering. Create a factory for the ex-Servicemen and vote sufficient money, train them in the managerial and in all spheres of running this thing and I am quite sure they will be grateful to the country. That will be a monument to their own memory—a memory of the services they rendered, for some of them may die and no matter what they have their children will benefit. I want this point to be taken seriously.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City) : Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no amount of talk that will be too much in support of something tangible, something constructive, something bold being done for the ex-Servicemen. Only about two or three months ago some of us must have read in the *Sunday Times* the very sympathetic story of an ex-Serviceman. Well, that man was employed in a factory perhaps and somehow he got an accident. He had nowhere to go, he had no money. The poor man had nothing to do at all and he had to go to the Press and appeal through the Press for some help.

The case of that man reflects very badly on us here and if we can arrange something for these ex-Servicemen so that such people may not have to go to the Press and appeal for some kind of sympathy from the public, then certainly we will be doing them a great deal of good. I would suggest, Mr Chairman, as the last speaker has said, we should have some institution for them so that they can be trained. Give them some kind of training so that when we establish any industry these men will be absorbed.

We are hoping that in a very short time the country will be full of industrial enterprises, being set up all over the country and we do want some people, technically trained, who will work in these industries. Let us have some sort of institution where we can train these people so that they can be employed in such industries when we establish them. This is one way we can help them. These men have done a great deal for us and I think there is no man who is not grateful for the services they rendered during the war years, and I think the only thing is that we have not yet decided on the best method of helping these people. The Minister is quite aware of this and he does want to help



[MR MAITAMA SULE]

them and so does everybody in this country. I want some thing, something bold and a sort of dynamic move made by the Government so that they may be absorbed in the industries, and this should be done immediately.

Mr Chairman, nothing can be said to be too much in support of the ex-Servicemen. They have rendered an excellent service to the country, to the British Commonwealth of Nations, if I may be allowed to say so.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to associate myself with those who have spoken about the ex-Servicemen, under this Sub-head 63—Nigerian Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association. I said that they should be reduced because I cannot say add. So perhaps it is to reduce to add and the purpose is to ask those who can add to add.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : Algebra.

**Dr Mbadiwe** : I am saying reduce in order to enable me to say here that the amount voted for the ex-Servicemen is so unimpressive. I mean that it looks like child's pay. We have toyed with the whole question of the ex-Servicemen.

At one time, Mr Chairman, the Government set up a committee to recommend the best way in which ex-Servicemen could be helped and several projects, industrial and otherwise, were recommended by this body to the Government. I think the body was known as N.E.W.A. Now what has happened to those recommendations ?

So many projects were recommended, factories of various sorts, business concerns were suggested. Small industries and motor transport were also mentioned. It was a very detailed analysis and was handed over to the Government. If the Minister—my worthy successor—could check sometime, it dawned on me that we could do some checking and if you go back to check.....

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zana the hon. Bukar Dipcharima) : When was it handed over ?

**Dr Mbadiwe** : It was handed over to some Government, not this Government, long ago in the colonial days before the Ministerial system.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : Did you discover it ?

**Dr Mbadiwe** : I was trying to discover it when the discovery was overtaken. Perhaps the Minister can throw some light whether he has discovered this project. If it has been discovered what does he intend to do ? I am happy that every side of this House has now given an indication that they want something substantial to be done on the question of ex-Servicemen. Give them their two shillings arrears, that will not empty the Treasury of this country. The Exchequer will still be going strong.

During the celebration of Ghana's independence during which we represented this country I discovered that the Ghanaian Government took very active interest in the welfare of the workers and the ex-Servicemen. You have heard that the workers in order to assist the Government to carry out its second five-year programme have forgone one day's pay. One day's pay. It is not the amount involved in a day's pay as the moral duty which it indicates. So that if we carry the ex-Servicemen and carry the workers along with the Government, when you need their help they in turn will give it. That is why it becomes necessary to first find out these projects, see what is feasible, and if necessary get people who have the managerial ability first to take up these projects, absorb some ex-Servicemen in it until they can carry the project themselves. That could be done. There are many loan funds which we have now. There is no reason why we should not take some money out of loan funds if we find the project which is projected will be of immense value and will be economical. Why should we not undertake that ?

The second is that with the Independence Celebrations I think this subvention should be increased. If there is no possibility of bringing the increase to this House then under the provision in the Contingencies Fund or by special warrant authorised by the Governor-General, this subvention should be increased. We should really work out a plan, the Independence Celebration Committee should devise a plan, the best plan in which our ex-Servicemen throughout this country could participate in the independence celebrations. I am not here to work out the details but that Committee should be charged with working out the details and this subvention should be increased to



absorb whatever proposal they put to Government. So, Mr Chairman, I think it will be to the best interest of the country if we find a way to absorb them. Other countries have done a great deal for their men who gave their lives and gave their all in the battle of democracy and freedom. There is somebody now in this Government, a Nigerian who served in the United States Army....

**An hon. Member :** What is his name ?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** He is a civil servant in this Government. He served in the United States Army and when the war ended, here was a young man who arrived in the United States without any smattering of secondary education. But after the war many opportunities were created for the United States Army, and because he was serving he was entitled to those opportunities. One is that you can begin your education anew. If you want to go to college you go, if you want to go to the university you go, whatever type of educational programme you want to undertake you undertake, under the provisions of the G.I. Bills of Right for ex-Servicemen. This young man took advantage of that, started his education afterwards and went through the colleges and universities and to-day he is a proud member of the civil service in a senior grade in this Government. Supposing they had not aided him all the time he left this country without any formal education, what do you think he would have been to-day? When they were attending these schools their wives were maintained. Your wife goes every period to draw the money and allowances to which you are entitled. If you have children after you are demobilised you can go to school, your children are in school. Such is the contribution of the American people to their soldiers that served them.

But in our own case you begin them with work. The fact is that if you find an ex-Serviceman that is so brilliant, so good, and who agitates for his comrades in general what you will say is: "That man is talking too much". You snatch him and give him an administrative job. The others are like sheep without shepherd. You see the Minister of Internal Affairs, he was doing very well, then he came back to us. Something like that. But in this case he has the great opportunity to do

something for the ex-Servicemen and I hope that the Minister will not hesitate to utilise the authority given to him by this House to do so.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba):** Mr Chairman, we have heard enough about ex-Servicemen that I wish to direct the attention of the House to Section C. There are many departments of state that have sacred duties entrusted to them and one of these is the Office of the Administrator-General. Many people in this House cannot take stock of the people who die intestate. Many people do not die intestate but make provision for their executors to administer their assets and liabilities. But there are hundreds of people who die in this country and have not got that privilege or the knowledge of making provision for the distribution of their properties. Sometimes their next-of-kin and all the people who are interested in the property of the deceased make applications for the granting of Letters of Administration. I am not concerned with this class of people. But I am concerned with the class of people where the Administrator-General himself takes upon himself to administer the estate of a dead person. That is a sacred duty and I am sure that if it is well done many people will be benefited.

I am not here going to criticise the Department by making any specific reference to one person or one case but out of my own experience I have known that it is difficult for letters or inquiries to be answered in time. This type of dilatory method brings a little discomfort and drags many matters to the Court. I am sure hon. Members in this House would not like members of their family after they are dead to be brought to Court on matters which the Administrator-General could have with greater care avoided going to Court.

I wish to make this point clear by saying that when the Administrator-General takes over the estate of a dead person he knows that some money from that estate goes to the Government funds. I have a case where death duties amounted to about £1,000. I think these monies which are being paid should be paid for the benefits accrued to the estate. One of the duties that he should look after is that he should see to it that the children of the deceased are well looked after. The children of the deceased person, some of them may be in the university at his death, but the minor children



[MR UBANI-UKOMA]  
are being left out with the result that some of them are not even having their primary and secondary education.

As I have said before I do not want to make specific remarks on certain estates, but out of my experience I know where one of the children has had university education and about nineteen others are just left like that. There should be equal distribution of the estate in such a way that the minor children after the death of their father should be looked after. Maintenance should come from the estate. Do not give it to one person.

I see that under sub-head 42, Local Transport and Travelling £400 is being added. This is good and I would suggest that in this case if need be there should be an increase. Let the Administrator-General or his representative make time to travel outside Lagos and visit some of the homes, some of the widows, some of the children whose fathers are dead and are under his control. He will be sorry to see the lives of some of these people. I am sure that if he were doing this work in the best interests of the children there would be no grumbling and rushing to Court. There is no reason why a young child whose father would have looked after his primary and secondary education if he had lived should not be able to benefit from his estate.

Now, Sir, I want to refer the Chairman to section 39 of the Administrator-General Ordinance. It says: "When after winding up an estate any real property remains undisposed of, the Administrator-General shall forthwith, and before closing the accounts of such estate, apply to the Court for direction as to the disposal of such real property, and the Court may order the same to be sold, or may appoint a receiver or make such other order as to the Court shall seem just."

What I am saying here is that where there is real property left it is the duty of the Administrator-General to apply to the Court to give direction either to sell the property or hand it over to a receiver who will collect rent and look after the family of the deceased person. This is not being done, and I would ask the Minister to take note and if he wants me to give him

specific names I will do so, but not in this House. These people must be well looked after and people who are being cheated should be well looked after so that there might not be reason for people to jump into Court and fritter away the money that should have accrued for the benefit of their children.

With these few remarks I take my seat.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs** (Chief O. Oweh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to reply to some of the points raised by hon. Members on this Head. The hon. Okay mentioned £1,000 for poppy factory. I want to say one thing about poppy factory and poppy sale. The £1,000 you find in the Estimates is to provide and help the N.E.W.A. to start a poppy factory in this country. You would observe that you have been wearing poppies every November. The poppies you were wearing were not made in this country. Now, we are making a beginning to start the production of poppies in Nigeria. The £1,000 there is not the entire capital that will be employed by the factory but the N.E.W.A. will also put in their own part of the capital and I am sure that before long there may be expansion in the poppy factory.

Another thing is that I cannot accept what hon. Jaja Wachuku said about the £1,000 provided for the poppy factory. I cannot agree that it is useless making this provision for the manufacture of poppy in this country. It is not unproductive. The fact is that before now the appeal for the poppy fund has not been adequately supported by hon. Members who are now speaking as also many people in this country. I think it is worthwhile that we should appeal to hon. Members to see the usefulness of the poppy itself and to support the poppy fund. I want to mention that the bulk of the subscription so far has come mainly from expatriates and firms, and I am appealing to the hon. Members of this House to educate the people of Nigeria to support the Poppy Fund because if you support the public fund you are directly contributing to the support of these ex-Servicemen for whose welfare you have been pleading. But if you do not put anything into the poppy fund you are not contributing to the welfare



of the ex-Servicemen. So I am appealing to you in return to please support the Poppy Fund when it comes by every year.

Another point is this £3,000 N.E.W.A. subvention. This subvention has been £3,500 before, but there is need that this money be increased. The Government has decided to increase this subvention by an additional £3,000. Well, Mr Adeyinka was speaking on this very Head and mentioned that the Minister himself is an ex-Serviceman. That is very true and I think ex-Servicemen in this country could not be more lucky to have the person of the hon. J. M. Johnson as the Minister of Internal Affairs. If there is any one person who has the interest of the ex-Servicemen at heart, it is he ; and I can assure you that the Ministry is doing everything possible to cater for the welfare of ex-Servicemen.

Now, Sir, on the question of the two shillings arrears, I think it is a matter that must be clearly stated here on the Floor of this House because it is time people should stop talking about two shillings arrears which have never been.

**An hon. Member :** Will you tell this to the ex-Servicemen ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Internal Affairs :** Yes, you can help us to tell them to stop. Mr Chairman, this claim for two shillings arrears has stemmed out of misunderstanding. This claim cannot be supported because the order which brought the payment of two shillings arrears into being did not refer to the ex-Servicemen recruited in this country and in West Africa. It was an order which referred only to the High Commission Territories of Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland in South Africa, and it only related to ex-Servicemen who were recruited in 1946 and later on served in the Middle East.

Now, by 1946 the war had ended and no Nigerian was recruited under this Instruction. Because it does not apply to this country we cannot accept the liability that the Government of this country should pay the two shillings arrears to ex-Servicemen in this country. It does not apply to any person in West Africa. That is the fact that must be told to ex-Servicemen. If it did, nobody

would go to greater pains to see that ex-Servicemen get their due benefits than the hon. Minister himself because he too would have earned a part of it. So that you want it clearly stated here no soldier in the whole of West African Territories is entitled to this two shillings arrears, and the less said of it the happier and better it is for everybody in this country.

I think, Sir, that it will be unnecessary for me to dwell longer on all the criticisms that have been raised by members. I want to assure them that their criticisms will be noted and considered and where we find that they are practicable the Government will not shirk its responsibility of working towards the improvement of the welfare of the ex-Servicemen in this country.

**Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to refer to the last statement of the Parliamentary Secretary. He referred to the two shillings arrears and many other things. I want to say and to emphasise categorically that the two shillings arrears were paid to members of the Armed Forces in the United Kingdom and that the differentiation which now exists is just in relation to nomenclature. The question of the High Commission Territories was not actually made known to the members of the 81st and 82nd Divisions, West Africa. There was no need to recruit members of the militia in 1946. The war had ended in 1945 and it was for the Government of any country to see that people who were recruited before 1946 were given arrears of two shillings. I stand to be corrected ; however, that is by the way.

I want to refer specifically to certain conditions which were provided for ex-Servicemen when they were demobilised. The issue was this. The Government of the Federation made an enactment to the effect that 10 per cent of the workers in every Department should be made up of ex-Servicemen. Instructions were given to the Native Authorities, to the Local Government Councils and to various Government Departments about this. That was being done until a certain stage, when the Government of the Federation stopped that. That is creating trouble for ex-Servicemen. Certain categories of Labour were specially left for the ex-Servicemen. But presently that is not



[MR ENEH]

applicable. Formerly the post of messenger and other posts in that category were left for them. But that is no longer applicable.

The provision that Government is making now of £3,000 is very good, but the issue is this. Is it sufficient? The N.E.W.A. is run on a Divisional basis throughout the country. The Administrative Officers are normally the chairmen of the N.E.W.A. organisation in various Divisions. Members of the N.E.W.A. organisation meet once a month. They look into the affairs of these ex-Servicemen and then decide on people who should have certain benefits. If an ex-Serviceman dies it is the concern of N.E.W.A. to train his children. What can £3,000 do for them? The issue now is that the Government of the Federation should make a real provision of something in the neighbourhood of £50,000 or £100,000 so that these people could be catered for properly. What are you going to do for these people who have been lame because of war? We are asking the Government to make a substantial provision for this type of people.

Sir, I want to refer to another point. When the men were discharged the Government undertook to give them certain war credits. I want the Minister to make a statement on this. Even the Gorsuch conclusions made a provision about this and the Government of the Federation accepted it, under section 49 of the White Paper that was approved by this House. Currently most of these men are not enjoying these benefits, even those people who are now employed by this Government. I want the Minister to clarify the situation.

With the permission of the Chairman I would like to make this point clear. I am reading from paragraph 279 to 280 of the conclusions of the Government of the Federation of the Report on the Public Service of the Federation of Nigeria 1954-55. I want the Minister to make a statement on this issue. It reads:

"The Government has decided after considering paragraphs 279 and 280, that existing arrangements for the grant of war service credit or credits for compulsory national service should continue subject to the proviso that credit granted in respect of war service should be limited to the maximum of two credits in order that a new entrant with war

service should be in as good a position as, but in no better a position than, the entrants without national service".

This is a statement of fact and the Government of the Federation agreed to this. Why is it that in various departments such as the Police and the Prisons and so forth this special item is not being cared for? I want an answer.

Whereupon, 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.

Amendment put and negatived.

Main question put and agreed to.

£4,600 for Head 40—Ministry of Internal Affairs.—agreed to

#### HEAD 41.—PRISONS

Question proposed, That £38,830 for Head 41—Prisons—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. I. Ayim (Ogoja): Mr Chairman, during the last Budget session of this Honourable House I asked a question and I wanted a written answer. I got an answer and the answer I was given was that my question or my story was being investigated. Up till this time I have not heard anything. The question I asked was in connection with Prisoners going over to farmland, felling down trees, destroying crops, and they do not even stop there. They go over and collect materials in the forest which they later on come to use as handicrafts. Now they come back with this wood and sell to the public in the station, and collect the money. I asked the Minister to please do something about it and I was told that investigation was being carried out but up to the present I do not know what is happening. As investigation continues so destruction continues.

I just want to appeal to the Minister to take adequate steps to remedy this situation. It is by this means that the owners of the land, the women who sell some of this wood and also the men, sometimes pay their taxes. They are a poor class of people. What I want to say, Sir, is that adequate steps should be taken to see that this does not continue because it has already brought a lot of bad relations between the Landlords and the Natives, the Prisoners and even the Administrative Officer at home. So without wishing to take time, Sir, I just want the Minister to see that



adequate steps are taken and if there is no possible means which can be devised by which these things can be supplied to the Prisons, contractors are all around and it could be done.

*Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £10.*

**M. Umaru Aba Karim (Muri)**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that there is voting of more money for services in the Southern Cameroons by the Government of the Federation from which it does not expect any dividend. The Government is fully aware of Mr Foncha's claim. Now Mr Foncha constitutes a grave danger not only to the Southern Cameroons but also to the Northern Cameroons.

Sir, I would like to say that at a conference held between the four major political parties in the Southern Cameroons, Mr Foncha's aim was that they should continue under British Trusteeship pending unification at a later date with the French Cameroons. Another political party advocated immediate independence and unification with the French Cameroons. If these two major political parties in the Southern Cameroons advocate a merger with the French Cameroons and you consider in addition to that the recent general elections in the Southern Cameroons, I do not think it is wise for the Government to vote any further money for the services of the Southern Cameroons. As I said right at the beginning, Mr Foncha's activities not only constitute a danger to the Southern Cameroons but also to the Northern Cameroons. I have to tell this House that Mr Foncha has stretched his arms to the Northern part of the Cameroons which is part of the Northern Region. . . .

**The Chairman** : The hon. Member is too much stressing the political differences in the Cameroons without relating the whole of his argument to this Buea farm which I imagine he is trying to do.

**M. Umaru Aba Karim** : What I am saying, Mr Chairman, is that there is no reason why Government should vote further money for the Southern Cameroons while Mr Foncha's aim is to break away from Nigeria. And this political party in the Northern Cameroons which I have just mentioned is part of Mr Foncha's activities. . . .

**The Chairman** : The hon. Gentleman keeps on stressing the political point about the Cameroons. All that he is entitled to say is about the Buea farms, which must be either continued or discontinued.

**M. Umaru Aba Karim** : Sir, I just want to make this clear to the House that I do not support any more money for the Southern Cameroons.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West)** : Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope that the Minister will take necessary action about the complaints against Action Group prisoners. We are fully aware of the atrocities of the Action Group and we know. . . .

**The Chairman** : My ignorance does not allow me to understand where the Action Group are brought in in this argument. Are they the people responsible for the Buea farm ?

**Mr Benson** : What I am saying, Sir, is this we know what they intend to do with the Customary Courts. We understand, Sir, that they intend to send many people to prison through the Customary Courts and therefore I would like the Minister to give an assurance that those people who are victims, should be allowed to register their vote at the polling station once they have registered as voters.

**Mr C. C. Onoh (Udi)** : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not my intention to elaborate on this topic. I am informed that certain people are not employed as warders in the Federal Territory of Lagos, notably from certain sections, and I like the Minister to make a statement on that.

Just about the end of last month, Mr Chairman, the Minister performed an impressive ceremony at Enugu. And it is interesting to note that there are people with thirty years' service, some of them without even a saving. It is my contention, Mr Chairman, that these people are not adequately cared for or given inducement to enable them to perform their duties.

Turning to Her Majesty's Approved Schools. These people have been doing very good work, at least in the care of delinquents, and unfortunately the Minister is not caring for them as he should. The staff are doing all they can, and I am asking that more money be afforded in order that we might get good results out of this thing, especially in the industrial side.



[MR ONOH]

With this, Mr Chairman, I support.

**M. Usman Angulu Ahmed** (Kwara): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the expenditure under this Head, I would like to suggest one important thing to the Minister, that is about the habitual prisoners. When I say so I mean thieves. In prison to-day the number of theft cases is so many. There are some people who go to prison more than ten times on theft offences. I should like to suggest to the Minister to consider how this type of notorious habitual prisoners will be treated. By this I mean that imprisonment alone is not sufficient. I should like to suggest to the Minister and the Council of Ministers if it will be possible that anybody found guilty of theft for more than five times, the Government should try to mark him so that he will be known wherever he goes. I think, if this House will support me, by so doing the number of theft offences will be reduced in this country.

I support the Head.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know of any particular instance where farms have been ravaged by prisoners, neither do I know at any time of prisoners trying to sell firewood. Perhaps what my hon. Friend meant to say was that prisoners go to these farms, collect firewood, and the Prisons Department sell it. But I have never heard of a single case where somebody brought it to the notice of my Ministry that the prisoners went to private farms to collect firewood. They either bargain with the local authorities for the use of their farms or with private farmers. Where we do not get such privileges, or where we find it too expensive to pay for them, we have contractors who supply us with firewood. The reason why we send them to collect firewood and sell it is in order not to keep the prisoners idle. It is better for the prisoners to go out and do some worthwhile work and at the same time bring in some revenue. And I think you will agree with me that it is.

As for the case of Buea farms, I feel that the hon. Gentleman was labouring under a misapprehension. If he looks at the footnote there he will find out that that is a question of pure accounting, not that the money was coming straight away like that.

As for the Gentleman who would very much like having prisoners discharged and employed, I assure him that it is the policy of my Ministry, that we do our best to try and see whether we could not make the prison not only punitive but reformatory. To this end we are working relentlessly.

I thank you for the interest taken in the Prisons Department because it has always given me great pleasure when I see Members taking interest in this department. I assure you we will do everything to make sure that justice is meted out.

As for Warders, I say that we have done our best for the Warders. For purposes of pay, they are in parity with the Police. I could even tell you that the Chief Warden is receiving the same salary as the Chief Inspector of Police. And this happened only a few years ago; and this is a favour on the part of your benevolent Government. We realise that we have not done all that we should do. Government is prepared to admit that there is room for improvement. If there is anything that we feel we should do to make the lot of this hard working band of young men happier, I assure you that we will leave no stone unturned.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri): Mr Chairman, Sir, I had no intention of speaking to this Head, but after the Minister has made his statement, I find it necessary to speak. Firstly, I want the Minister to tell this House what steps he is taking to check the universality of crime that is being developed in the prisons now. I give an example. I remember in 1950 or 1951 the warders and the prisoners hanged and killed a wardress at Enugu. And quite recently you remember that your warders or your clerks or whoever were concerned, planned to change prisoners: when they come they get other people to come and serve the sentence for them. And you tell us here that you are paying your warders and your clerks so highly! I want you to make a statement on how you are checking your prisons. It is becoming a university of crimes.

**Mr H. M. Adaji** (North Igala): Mr Chairman, Sir, it was not my intention to say anything on this Head, but the reformation which the Minister concerned voiced in this House is really changing something in me. I do not know if any person in this House knows of any prisoner who has ever left the



prison and who has been taught a certain art and who has been employed anywhere, in any of the institutes or departments. If it is really reforming criminals, as he has said in this House, I would like to know how many prisoners, after having been released from prison, have been taken and employed anywhere in this country.

**Mr P. Eleke** (Okigwi): Mr Chairman, Sir, last time we deplored the attitude of the Prisons Department for lack of Nigerianisation policy being carried out in that Department. There was no Nigerian appointed to the super-scale posts. Sir, I understand that the position is still as it was and I humbly ask the Minister why it is so. Is it because we have no suitable or qualified candidate to take over or what?

**Mr J. Mpi** (Ahoada): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have only a short point to make. Since the Minister took over, he has not visited Ahoada Prison. All the old houses that were built when Adam and Eve were still babies are still like that, and he is telling us of reformation and all that.

Secondly, we are entering into independence. I do not know how the men in the rural area will know that we are getting into a new world.

**The Chairman**: Mr Benson had already spoken a few moments ago.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): All I just want to say, Sir, is that the Minister is a very reasonable person. There are some prisoners who have been reformed and who are now Members of this House. They know these prisoners—the Leader of the Opposition in the Eastern Region, and Chief Whip. They are members of the Action Group.

**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo South): The Minister of Internal Affairs issued a circular to all local councils. In that circular we were asked by the Minister to say whether or not we would like the prison to be taken over by the Federal Government. In Oyo we passed a Resolution in favour quite a long time now and up till now we are still waiting for the Ministry to take over the prison in Oyo. I wonder why this delay has been going on for such a long time. It has taken over two years since that Resolution was passed by the Council and yet no step has been taken by the Ministry. (*Interruptions.*)

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): He is waiting for you to enter.

**Mr H. U. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot-Ekpene): Mr Chairman, Sir, what I want to do under this Head is to bring to the notice of the Minister—and I am sure he is fully aware—that there are certain ex-warders who served the Prisons Department in the days that warders were paid £2 and £2-10s-0d and left as their time expired. Now that they are being better paid, they would like to be taken back, and I want to know whether the Minister is willing to take them back.

*M. Maitama Sule 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.*

£38,830 for Head 41—Prisons—agreed to.

#### HEAD 42.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

*Question proposed, That £6,780 for Head 42—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule.*

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu): Mr Chairman, I beg to move to remove sub-head 63 by £45. The question of labour, Mr Chairman, is, as I said, one that one could only act within one's area of jurisdiction. We are in a position to reduce and not to add, and so the method I have adopted in asking for any reduction under this Head is to reduce in order to add. And I am asking them to reduce that smaller sum and to add a bigger sum.

When I admitted during the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill that the labour unions should be given a loan as well as grants, I meant every word of that statement. I want to take this opportunity to inform the Minister of Labour that I am not just making that statement because it sounds sweet to do so. I believe that the Ministry of Labour has a responsibility towards the uplift of the working people of this country in order to enable them to be more productive.

Looking through the shape of the country and our resources, I find that the reason why we could not produce labour leaders of the calibre that we would like to, is due to the nature of our economy. In the first place the labour unions are not so well organised as to be able to meet



[DR. MBADIWE]

their day-to-day commitments. As a result, the people that come out for employment in the unions live from hand to mouth; the means of paying them monthly is so uncertain, and in many cases you find that labour leaders, in order to show that they are working, must develop one tactic or another just to show that they are doing something for their union. As a result they go into extreme measures... (Interruptions.)

My proposal is (1) let us grant these people an outright grant that will enable them to build a labour secretariat where the various unions operating in Lagos at least will have their offices. It will be a businesslike sort of thing. If there are 300 labour unions operating in Lagos, each having its office in that secretariat and they pay their monthly dues, you find how much they can collect in a year as rent. (2) It will serve as easy access even to the Ministry of Labour so that when you want these people to assemble, you will know that there is one central building to find them. . . . .

**The Chairman :** It is just 1 o'clock, and I am bound to suspend the sitting until 3 o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**The Chairman :** Dr Mbadiwe was speaking at one o'clock. He did not quite finish his amendment. Mr Udom is also down for this amendment; perhaps he would just finish the proposal.

**Mr J. U. Udom (Abak) :** Mr Chairman, speaking to this amendment I refer to Sub-head 78—Rent for Consulate Building and Senior Staff Quarters—£2,500. Mr Chairman, I have nothing to quarrel with the provision under this Head but I want to hint to the Ministry of Labour that the complaints of ill-treatment from the labourers in Fernando Po, particularly those labourers from Old Calabar province, are too numerous and I am unable to state a specific instance. All I want to say is that now we are going to rent a building and senior staff quarters for our Consulate and senior staff there in Fernando Po, they should be advised to look after the welfare of our people there more closely than it is done now.

For years now, Mr Chairman, our people have been complaining of ill-treatment in

Fernando Po. It may be that we have not got the staff to look after their welfare and now that we are going to get a permanent building for our Consulate and senior staff I am confident that the Minister will advise those staff to look after our people.

Another point, Sir, I would like the Minister to tell this House what were the causes of the strike of the Nigerian Union of Seamen in July and what steps he has taken to prevent the strike and what is the position of the dispute between the Nigerian Union of Seamen and the E.D. Lines. I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu) :** What I was saying during the morning meeting is that apart from the benefit which the Central Secretariat of Labour Union will do for the workers themselves it will also aid the Government in a way and it will give added prestige to labour. What worries labour to-day is that because of hand to mouth existence they feel that their lot is such a hopeless one that many times they do what people ought not to do and I think that the duty of Government—I am not by any stretch of imagination asking for subsidy—but I am saying that the foundation for real responsibility for workers in this country must be helped through the promotion of the Government to give it that stability. For that reason I have made this suggestion of a grant to help them to foster a secretariat to help them to pay their staff when that secretariat is built and to give them hope and new status. With the new status will come a new responsibility, then they will come directly in the public eyes and their activity will be watched and they will be part and parcel of building a new nation, rather than feeling that the others built and that they are at the back. Labour will play a very very important role.

I have also mentioned the loan which will help them. It is said that Heaven helps those who help themselves. But by giving them responsibility of raising a loan to cater for their well-earned programme of three to five years they will know that they have to pay back, and in order to pay back they have to build a responsible trade union and sound membership and through that they could periodically



reduce their indebtedness. But meanwhile out of that fund they will have fixed deposit which will make them carry the overhead cost of running a normal trade union.

Mr Chairman, the Minister himself understands more than I do in this matter. My entire suggestion is that we must carry along the labour movement because we must make them more responsible. We must give them the idea that they have a part to play in the building of this great country and that their efforts will be appreciated. It is the attention which the Government of Ghana gave to its labour unions that has enabled the Government to-day to reap from the labour unions.

We have read in the papers the pronouncement of all the labour unions in Accra that they are going to give one day's pay towards the development of the Second-Year Programme.

Now if the Government is interested in their welfare, in whatever they are doing, I do not think that Labour will be thinking of more pay and strikes and so on, but to-day the reverse seems the case. (*Interruption*). I am talking now about labour. When I come to Internal Affairs we talk about deportation and importation. So, Mr Chairman, this is a great opportunity for the Minister to do something in the direction of labour movement. I do not believe that the incessant demand for wages and increase of wages will be the cure of our labour troubles. I would like first to see a well organised trade union in this country, a well staffed, well disciplined labour union that will take its place in the scheme of things in this country.

If we are aiming for stable economy, if we are aiming for expanded internal and external commerce, labour will continue to play a very enviable role and we can only make them play that role by giving them the respect which is due to them. If we have something to divide in the country let us give them their share. If there is going to be a Board appointed, give them Board appointment; then if they come out after independence and say "wage increases, wage increases," I want them to know that the Minister is not getting a wage increase, know that the expatriates are not getting wage increase, know that even the Clerk of the Legislature is not getting one, then they will be contended. But if we begin to increase in

other directions then they will be entitled to wage increase but meanwhile it is the building of a new nation, it is not wage increase that will give them a sound foundation and make them feel that they are respected citizens of the community.

**An hon. Member :** You did not remember that when you were in the Ministry of Labour.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I have never been a Minister of Labour and Welfare but I am saying that the Minister himself knows what is to be done; we are only strengthening his hands when he goes to the Minister of Finance because I know how stingy the Minister of Finance would be on some subjects, and if we do not make ourselves clear the Minister of Labour going there will be turned back with so many excuses. Now that we are strengthening his hand, you see, going to the Minister of Finance will be less difficult than if we had not said anything from the Floor of this House.

I beg to support.

**The Minister of Labour (Hon. J. M. Johnson) :** Mr Chairman, I am grateful for the observations of the last speaker. In these days of stolen files—I have almost lost all the files in my Ministry, all the files have gone into wrong hands—because nearly everything we have said here appears to be on all fours with the scheme we are now drawing for the trade unions.

**An hon. Member :** Is that so ?

**The Minister of Labour :** We all hope now that we have a very responsible leadership in Nigerian Trade Union, I can say this, judging from my experience of other places, that leadership of trade unions in Nigeria is second to none for efficiency and responsibility, (*Hear, hear*). And it is incumbent on this Government to do its best to help them along in order that they may realise their ambition of building a strong labour force in Nigeria, while it is our intention to help the labour movement and already we are doing a lot for dock workers. I remember only last week we started registering the dock workers with photographs and not only that, we have asked the trade union leaders to let us know what help they require from us, so that from time to time we shall deal with these requests and, subject to the approval of the Cabinet, such requests will be



[MINISTER OF LABOUR]  
forthcoming. I am in full agreement that the labour movement needs a central secretariat, in order that they should prove their worth in an atmosphere devoid of political bias and at the same time devoid of fantasy.

It is the intention of this Government to help but we are waiting for them to make the request and I can assure you that when next we will be in this House you will be able to say 'thank you' to the Government.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Question again proposed.*

**M. Sanni, O. B. Okin** (Northern Ilorin) : I do agree with all that has been said by the previous speakers, Mr Chairman, but I would like to make certain suggestions to the Minister of Labour. Experience has shown that some of the Heads of Departments are not so tactful and are not so approachable in their attitude towards the subordinate staff and this precipitates labour disputes in the country. I suggest and I am appealing to the Minister to advise the Heads of Departments to be more tactful and more approachable in dealing with the problems normally brought before them by their subordinate staff. Be tactful and by so doing I believe that these trade disputes in the country can be easily wiped out.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Sanni** (Oshun Central) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I notice that in this Head provision has been made for subsidising the Young Men's Christian Association for their moral and spiritual transformation. But, Sir, I think one great omission has been made. No provision has been made for the Nigerian Muslim Society. As we know Islam and Christianity are counterparts of the other.

**The Chairman** : There is no provision in this estimate for that subject.

*Question put and agreed to.*

£6,780 for Head 42—Ministry of Labour—  
agreed to.

HEAD 43.—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS,  
MINES AND POWER

*Question proposed, That £32,830 for Head 43—  
Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—  
stand part of the Schedule.*

**Rev. E. S. Bens** (Brass) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move to reduce Sub-head 13 by £100,

under the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power on the point of sheer waste of public revenue.

Mr Chairman, Sir, only recently this House passed a Bill authorising the expenditure of £2,450 as the salary of a Petroleum Adviser on the oil industry. Sir, when oil was found in this country the people of Nigeria were so happy about it in so many aspects. First, that unemployment would be eased to a greater extent. Secondly, that the economy of the country would be stepped up.

**The Chairman** : I think these are general considerations—matter for a sort of Second Reading speech. The hon. Member must confine his remarks to one or two particular items in the Estimate.

**Rev. Bens** : Mr Chairman, Sir, that is exactly what I am doing. There is provision of £4,000 in that Sub-head 13 for Consultants on the Oil Industry. What I am trying to say is that in February we passed an expenditure in this House to provide for the salary of a Petroleum Adviser and here is a provision of £4,000 for Consultants. That is what I am trying to say. Will I continue Mr Chairman ?

**The Chairman** : Yes.

**Rev. Bens** : Third, that the revenue of the country will be healthier. Well, Sir, hon. Members are not licensed to come to this House every meeting to approve provisions for unwise expenditure.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : That sounds like Alao.

**Rev. Bens** : That is why I say it is a sheer waste of public revenue. We know that oil industry is very valuable and vital to the economy of the country, that Government can explore any revenue or sources through which they will get the best use of oil. It is true but I want the Minister now to tell us, to draw a line between the functions of the Adviser and the functions of the Consultant; whether the Adviser is not competent and as such you are now seeking the advice of Consultants. I want to know who are the Consultants whether they are Dutchmen, Englishmen or Americans who have interest already in the oil industry. I want this to be made clear before we approve this £4,000. If not, Sir, I maintain that £100 must be reduced from the Sub-head and



I want the Minister also to make a statement on the question of refinery. It is true that he is not there but I hope the Chairman will give us some laxity in this matter.

My friend, Jaja Wachuku, on this side of the House has always maintained that to get the best use of these Consultants or Advisers we should be advised to the effect that a refinery to refine our crude oil be set up in Nigeria, and quite recently such a statement was made by Shell B.P. We want an assurance or a statement of confirmation from the Minister. Again, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister something about the grant of £500,000 by the Oil Companies to the Federal Government, for the local people from the area where oil mining operations are executed are expected to benefit by way of scholarships, at least.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, my friend has vested interest with me in this business because although he got up before me I have more oil than himself and I have better quality oil than he has—oil from Afam in my area, Aba Division.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola):** Are you quarrelling over it?

**Mr Wachuku:** We have a common interest. With regard to this question of Consultants and Advisers I would like to know from the Minister what provision is being made for training Nigerians now at this initial stage; to produce people who will be able to advise him or his successor in the near future on the question of oil. We have one petroleum adviser. I would have liked to see here provision for the training of one or two Nigerians who will give future petroleum advice.

Then on the question of Consultants, I think it is valuable to know who are these Consultants. I would have thought that we would bring somebody who will not belong to those countries interested in this oil business but at the same time we should be careful that whoever the consultants are they should be such that have no interest in the existing company.

Now, Sir, very often when Afam oil is mentioned people do not know that that oil is from Aba Division—my division—and the

sooner the Minister makes everybody to understand that it is from my division the better. It is extending under the soil of the Imo River.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** No wonder you are so combustible.

**Mr Wachuku:** And you are inflammable but I am not.

Now, Sir, the important thing which refers to what my friend is saying here is we want advisers, we want consultants, but people in that area want their children also to be consultants and advisers and the Minister should make provision about the half a million pounds to produce some consultants and advisers from Oloibiri and Afam areas. (*Hear, hear*).

**An hon. Member:** That is parochial.

**Mr Wachuku:** That is not, for if it were in the United Kingdom the people would be wealthy overnight, but we have legislation that makes minerals to belong to the State so that there will be even distribution of wealth throughout the country. What will be the compensation which the people will get for loss of land if it were on different conditions? So that once money is voted for this thing some part of the money should be used to train up the people so that they will be able to participate in the industry. I am saying this and I am sure Members will appreciate my point, that this arrangement will help to make it beneficial to the people. I am saying that about £10,000 or £20,000 should be voted for the training of people here who will actually feel that they have benefited from the half a million pounds—training of technicians and all the rest of it.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the next thing I want to say on this particular Head is this. Last Budget Session when I was making my speech here the people did not appreciate what I was saying about oil being found there. Now I want to know whether the Minister has been advised by his advisers as to the extent of the refinery that is being proposed. I read in the paper the other day that a team of Shell-B.P. people have come out to survey the area that will be used—where they will establish the refinery. Now what is the nature? Have you any views at all from your adviser because I notice here that provision has been made for one consultant, or are you just trying to get money voted first? Have you got a consultant



[MR WACHUKU]  
to deal with this matter? I hope that when the refinery is built it will be built in Aba Division.

Under this particular Head I cannot find an item I am looking for—land in Lagos. Anyway, I think I have somewhere else to deal with this.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Lagos which belongs to nobody.

**Mr Wachuku :** I am the Onikoyi of Ikoyi.

Now, Sir, without wasting any further time I want the Minister to take this matter very seriously and make a statement to this House about the position of the oil industry, and whilst it may seem the need for consultants is due to the fact that at first we did not know anything, last Session there was debate over a Bill and shortly after that there was an announcement that they had exported 3,625,000 barrels of oil and that there was hope this year they would reach half a million tons. It is an extraordinary thing. Whilst the House knew nothing at the Budget Session and immediately after the Bill had been passed and the signing of agreements concluded, they suddenly discovered that the year before they had exported over three million barrels of oil. We would like to know the present production of oil in this country.

**Mr F. N. H. Ayeni (Badagry) :** I do not rise, Sir, to support the amendment on the reduction of the Head. I would like to refer the House to sub-head 22—Electrical Equipment. It is to note that the Government of this Federation is carrying on the development scheme drawn for the rural areas.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun East) :** Is it the whole Head that is being debated or a particular section?

**Mr Ayeni :** I think my friend on my right-hand side is not paying attention to what has been going on, that is why that mistake has arisen. I must then go straight to what I was saying. I was saying it is very interesting to note that the development scheme for rural areas is carried on very rapidly by this Ministry and it is gratifying to note that in reply to a question this morning the Minister declared that he had started electric installations in some of the rural areas and mentioned Badagry as one of them. What I want to make out is that

the amenities provided for the rural areas in this House should not be a barrier. For instance, the electricity bill for Badagry area cannot be compared with what is obtainable in Lagos. A unit here is threepence, while there we pay one shilling per unit. I feel very much that, now that we have an increase of £400 under this Head for electrical equipment, I hope very much that when this equipment arrives the shortage that we experienced there which has not allowed the Department to bring down the rates, will be remedied.

Mr Chairman, I would like to refer the Minister to a lot of applications outstanding there, seeking installations. It will be of interest if the Minister will look into it that applicants who are willing to use electricity are given their own quota in due time.

**Mr E. Bathurst (Special Member) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to seek the indulgence of the House and of the Government in listening to what might be termed as "My last Will and Testament" under this heading.

I wish to remind the House of the great part that the mining industry has played—and is playing—in the economics of Nigeria. I would like to seek even further assistance from the Government—the Government is always assisting—but I would like to seek even further assistance in encouraging production that would lead to increased revenues for Nigeria.

The House will understand and appreciate that for industry to flourish it is essential that all costs of production, wages, taxation, etc., should be fully known. Without full knowledge of these costs it is not possible to tell whether you can venture or continue to venture with your production. I would submit that in order to encourage production it is absolutely essential that Government makes up its mind expeditiously as to the method of administering any decision laid down under the legislation of this honourable House, especially when it concerns taxation.

At the moment, there is a certain amount of uncertainty—shall we say—about the decisions given by Government because it is unable to arrive at a final decision until it has consulted innumerable other Departments, not only in the Federal Region but in all other Regions. The difficulty of obtaining agreement or



unanimity among all various Departments in the Federal and the Regional Governments within a reasonable time—and I repeat again, within a reasonable time—must be exceedingly difficult. The position is obscure but the fact remains that industries suffer in the meantime not only inconvenience, but they often suffer financial loss.

It is hoped that the Government will solve its administrative problem very shortly but, in the meantime, the mineral industry prays that the hon. Minister of Mines will use his power to blast a way through these many rocks of difficulties and thus open up further scope for the mineral industry.

Now another issue that is one of urgent and immediate importance for the production of minerals, is for the hon. Minister to persuade his colleagues that better transport facilities be provided. Ninety per cent of the Plateau mineral production is carried along the Jos-Wamba-Akwanga road and forty per cent of this goes along a very short stretch of road between Fadan Karshi and Akwanga. I think many of you know this road. This short stretch of fifty miles is horrible to contemplate in the rainy season. This time I passed fifty stranded lorries on this road as I came down to this House. Now fifty stranded lorries—what does it mean? Fifty stranded lorries means that a lot of consignments of mineral did not reach the railway in time to catch the train. In order to get space on a train you have to reserve it many days ahead. Through the result of not being able to get to the railway, not being able to get the train, they will not be able to get the export ship. That means serious inconvenience to everyone concerned.

The hon. Minister of Mines knows how valuable this short stretch of road is to the industry, and I feel sure he is aware that when columbite comes to the fore in the next year or two, that road will be very valuable. Now money begets money, and money spent on this road would be no loss to Nigeria but would be an investment. The hon. Minister of Mines is the incumbent of a very loyal and faithful parish and I would plead with him to take up the cudgels on their behalf so that not only transport difficulties may be overcome but the various administrative problems can also be overcome.

In making this appeal, I am deeply conscious of the honour and privilege of being a Member of this historic House which has achieved so much. (*Applause*). More achievements are yet to come and there can be no doubt of an even more happy and successful future. (*Applause*).

**Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to touch on one or two points in opposing the motion for the sum of £100 to be reduced. Nobody is in doubt as to the invaluable nature of the services of a Consultant on the Oil Industry, especially when we realise that the Minister himself is not an expert on the subject. But what I want to add is that especially at this time when we are in doubt as to which country is our friend and which country is our enemy, it will be necessary to tell the Minister to make sure of the country of origin of any expert that will be considered to fill these posts.

The other point is about sub-head 146—Subsidies to chiefs. I find that in the Explanatory Note the provision is being sought for remuneration of the present President of the Lagos Town Council. I do not understand what is meant here by 'subsidies to chiefs'. I wonder whether we are paying subsidies to all Lagos chiefs or only to the President. With these few remarks I oppose the motion.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun East):** Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose this motion and to indicate that the provision is necessary.

The main reason why I wish to contribute to this debate is to take the opportunity to congratulate the Minister on the provision made under sub-head 146. I think that it is said that it takes an aristocrat to recognise an aristocrat. I think what is being done now is to put natural rulers in Lagos on the proper footing, to put them above politics and political parties as a whole and to put them in a place whereby they can discharge their duties without fear of favour to all the people who may come from different parts of the Federation. I think this step is a wise step.

Mr Chairman, when the time comes to debate the provision for Lagos chiefs and the new legislation, proposed, I think we shall have enough to say about this as regards the wisdom of the steps being taken by the Minister and his Ministry. In the interim, I congratulate him.



[CHIEF BALOGUN]

I also wish to congratulate the Minister on the steps which were taken as regards the Rapson Report. (*Applause*). I want to say that if the Government had not taken the decision which they took it would have been giving high premium to dishonesty in this country. It does not take a Rapson to know that what was done in Lagos by some people in the name of the Lagos Town Council was not only irregular but also the people concerned were fraudulent. Many of us who read the papers or who listened to the account on the radio have come to our own decision.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife)**: Point of Order. The hon. Member is most irrelevant. The Rapson Report does not come under this Head at all. Here we have remuneration to chiefs. What has that got to do with the Rapson Report?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba)**: Point of Order. The Chairman has ruled that you can speak to the Head and if you look at sub-heads 192, 193 to 196 provisions are made for the Lagos Town Council. This has to do with Lagos Town Council.

**The Chairman**: In my opinion, yes. (*Applause*).

**Chief Kolawole Balogun**: I thank you, Mr Chairman. I want to say that if I were the Chairman of that Commission the first thing I would have done in the first day of the hearing would have been to issue an interim report saying that certain people should be arrested. I do not want to mention names from the Floor of this House—it might look as if we are taking advantage—but it is obvious that one or two people mentioned should have been arrested and tried by now for fraud. (*Interruption*) The Minister of Communications and Aviation was one of the people who rejected the Rapson Report. He ought not to heckle. The Government rejected the Rapson Report. You are part and parcel of the Government and if you do not agree with the Government, resign.

One of the queer things that have been happening is that people can appropriate and reprobate at one and the same time. However, that is left for the future. The Rapson Report is an eye-opener and if I were one of

those people who generalise I would say that certain people's minds are not in this country again, and therefore they would do just anything they like not caring whether it is in the interests of the people or not. However, that is only a surmise.

We thank the Minister for being sufficiently realistic. Government is a job for realistic people. It is not for mediocres.

**An hon. Member**: That was why you were kicked out.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun**: Mr Chairman, may I remind the hon. Member that I was not kicked out: I took the decision to resign my appointment as a Minister of State. I am proud of the shining record which I have there. I am proud to belong to this place where I am. I enjoy the confidence of these people who sit around me here. (*Interruption*). I only wish I will be given two minutes to make my points on this matter. It is obvious, after all it is only a matter of commonsense that if you take a penny from somebody you ought to give a receipt. It is so clear that it does not need even a Standard Six boy to sit down and judge whether that is true or not. Nobody will be able to know the amount of fraud that has been committed on the people of Lagos until later on.

This Government's rejection will stimulate the market women who have been doped for so long to open their eyes to know they have got protection in the Government. I am sure that later on they will come forward and speak. I know that Government does not go into extremes. It is not just enough to say that one or two things should be done. Some recommendations were made. We know how those recommendations will be played down. It is recommended that the Town Clerk should be queried by the Town Council. The Town Council will play down those recommendations. That Council should have been dissolved and a Caretaker Council put in its stead. After all, there is what is called 'vicarious responsibility'. What is more, money was being collected illegally. They went to the Council, they said they ratified it. Every person who took part in such an infamous ratification ought to have been out of the Council by now. Let us be frank about it.



House of Representatives Debates

1929 [Supplementary Appropriation 13 AUGUST 1959

Bill : Committee]

1930

If it were certain people they would have dissolved that Council without any reason whatever and they would have put up their own stooges to rule Lagos for the next twenty-five years.

I want to wind up by saying that the Minister should be congratulated. I hope we have not heard the last word on the Rapson Report yet. I want the Minister to consider whether some councillors are not becoming irresponsible and whether it is proper that such people should still be controlling us in the Lagos Town Council. We want him to give very active consideration as to the fact whether that Council should not be dissolved and a caretaker council appointed in its place.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I will be doing injustice to myself if I do not say 'thank you' to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, for his achievements both in the social and economic fields. Socially he has achieved a great deal for the people of Lagos in particular and for the people of Nigeria in general, and for his achievements in that particular field I am extremely grateful.

One can see how much he has achieved in this field. Only quite recently we have been informed that a Bill will be coming to this House to determine the position of Lagos chiefs and when we come to discuss this particular Bill the position of Lagos chiefs will be secured in that they will be above politics and no one political party will try to play with the destiny of the people and the chiefs of Lagos. This is a remarkable achievement. Another social achievement that has been made is the excellent decision Mr Chairman that the Minister and his colleagues in the Council of Ministers have taken to reject the Rapson Report, that bundle of contradictions submitted by Mr Rapson. Mr Chairman, Sir, the Report speaks for itself and I do not intend to go into details of the report in order to explain to hon. Members of this Legislature that it is really a bundle of contradictions. But this much I will say. Government should not just stop at suggesting certain remedies to be effected by the Lagos Town Council. They should do more than that. In view of the anomalies which are self-evident and in view of the ill-gal collection of market dues the Lagos

Town Council should be dissolved forthwith (Applause) (Several hon. Members : Now, now).

Mr Chairman, my argument is this. I have not got any ill feelings in mind but this is a straight argument. If the Government is convinced that this Rapson Report should be rejected, as it has been rejected, certainly the best course to take is not to allow these people to go on ruling the people of Lagos. They should not be allowed to continue. The Lagos Town Council should be dissolved now, now. (Applause).

Sir, in the economic field the Minister has done a great deal too. We have seen how extremely hard working he has been in promoting the mining industry in this country and we are extremely grateful to him. But Sir, in this stage of our development when we are expecting oil in commercial quantities it is imperative that we select our own people and send them abroad in order to study the law and other things governing the production of oil in other parts of the world. It is necessary that we do so for how can we compare the sort of profits and benefits that we are going to get from oil production in this country if we do not know what is obtaining in other parts of the world? This is the time to get our own people and send them to the United States of America, Canada and other parts of the world where oil is produced in large commercial quantities in order that they may be able to study the laws and other things governing the production of oil. So that when they come back here they will see objectively whether the production of oil is to the benefit of this country or to our detriment. I would suggest that the sooner the Government makes a move towards that the better.

Similarly I would like to see, Sir, that our people are sent to other parts of the world in order to get some sort of technical training. After all it is not enough to wait until the company concerned with the prospecting of oil gives the necessary training, that we need. There are certain people that we can send to other parts of the world in order to give them the proper training that we require; let us do so. In short I would say that people should be sent out in order that they may be technically qualified to undertake the responsibilities that will eventually come to them as the result of oil production in this country. For all the things that the Minister has been able to do, courageous as he has always been,



[MR MAITAMA SULE]  
dependable, reliable and responsible, I say; "Thank you very much and may God be with you." Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no need for us to get excited about the Rapson Report. Those of us who were taught how to read, can read the report. If some of us were never taught how to read they could not have read it. But looking at the Report and looking at the comments of Government it is quite clear that Government and Rapson disagree on legal points as to what the Council can do and what the Council cannot do. It is quite clear from the comments of the Government that the basis of that Report is whether or not the Council had the power to collect tolls or whether the council had not those rights, and on that mere assumption an ex-Minister of His Majesty's Government on the Floor of this House had the audacity and the impudence to stand there coolly when he knows he is fully covered by privilege to make allegations of corruption against respectable persons. I challenge the hon. Kola Balogun, Mr Chairman, to put statement in the newspapers, in the *West African Pilot*. Let him do that. There is nobody stopping him from doing that. I challenge him, Sir, or anybody else for that matter who has the guts to come out of the cover of this House where there is absolute privilege and if anybody dares do that he will know what will happen to him. (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman:** Order, order, let the Committee remember that this is a proper debate—attack and defence.

**Mr Fani-Kayode:** I thank you, Sir. I can take it, but they cannot take it.

Secondly, Sir, the hon. Kola Balogun said without reasoning deeply—of course how could he? Can he reason at all? He said the mere fact that the Government is trying to fix wages for a particular Chief is security for that Chief. That is nonsense. Supposing the Government changes hands tomorrow and that salary is changed? That is no cover. In fact if one is going to use hard words on the Floor of this House, one should learn to be reasonable. From now until the end of time in Nigeria to-day Obas must learn to work with their people and Obas must be constitutional monarchs. So long as they are that, Sir, they have nothing to fear. But once Obas get into

the throes of politics, into the arena of politics they get what they deserve because they must as a consequence be thrown from one side to the other. Speaking for myself, I think we are reaching the age when all privileges to all persons must be destroyed. I see no reason why, because somebody is Oba of Lagos he should be earning a fantastic sum of money just because he was born by somebody else. (*Interruptions*).

**An hon. Member:** Say that again.

**Mr Fani-Kayode:** Yes, I am speaking for myself and I repeat that I believe the only way a man should have money is to work for the money. Not to sit down and say because he is the son of somebody he should be earning a certain amount of money.

**An hon. Member:** It is too late.

**Mr Fani-Kayode:** It is not too late. People like hon. Agwuna are watching you with interest, because I know they agree with me. Now we are all applauding because an Oba is going to be given money. By all means, Sir, let us keep our traditions. Our traditions should be maintained but they should be maintained in a constitutional manner. I do not say that Obas should not receive salaries, but to accuse one party or some people of trying to deprive the Oba of a salary and to say that one Government is trying to protect an Oba is just playing politics. (*Interruptions*).

Now, Sir, I must continue. They have cried in this House "Dissolve the Council, dissolve the Council". One thing I am certain of is this, the last person in Lagos to-day who will use those powers is the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power. He will not dissolve the Council without going into the merits of it. If he does that, Sir, I shall be disappointed. I can speak for certain that that gentleman will not do anything of the sort until an enquiry has been made; and if they want any enquiry I challenge them to ask the Minister to institute an enquiry and we shall face that enquiry in public. We have done that before successfully. We shall do it again. Now, Sir, they are shouting about, "Dissolve the Council". Why did not the Eastern Cabinet dissolve itself after the public enquiry had condemned Dr Azikiwe of fraud? (*Prolonged interruption*). I mean, those who



*House of Representatives Debates*

1933 [Supplementary Appropriation 13 AUGUST 1959 Bill : Committee] 1934

live in glass houses should be very careful not to throw stones. That man was condemned by an independent tribunal. . . . .

**The Chairman :** We need not drag that in now.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I shall not, I shall let them suffer in silence.

**Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka) :** On a point of order, Sir, is it a correct statement to say that Doctor Azikiwe was condemned by an independent tribunal ?

**Chairman :** That is not a point of Order. It may be a point of debate or argument.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** Thank you, Agwunavisky ! I am saying again, let us face the facts as they are. The Government did not like the Rapson Report. The Government is quite entitled to dislike it if it so desires. Government has given reasons for disliking the Rapson Report. Let us stick to those reasons. That is what I am saying. If the Government believes that Mr Rapson is wrong, it is entitled to believe that Mr Rapson is wrong, but to come here and start making pernicious statements is what must be contradicted from the Floor of this House. If you can see from the notes under 146 it says : "To provide for the remuneration of the President, Lagos Town Council, pending settlement by the Lagos Town Council." Obviously there must have been a dispute as to the salary between the Government and the Council. Surely the Government can make provision for that. Do not let us impute motives to the Minister or to the Government and try to get into better light with our leaders. The person I am speaking to knows himself. If I leave a party, I leave for good. I do not come back here and say things on the Floor of this House which I cannot say outside just to be in the good books of an erstwhile master.

Finally, Sir, I think this House must look at this matter from a constructive point of view, and no Member should come before us here and try to treat us like children. Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Motion.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power for the steps he has taken as far as the Lagos

Town Council matter is concerned. But the point of this House is that that particular Council should be dissolved. Mr Fani-Kayode made some points. I am sorry that he is not here in the chamber now, but I would like to say that in many parts of the Western Region to-day there are corrupt councils which the Action Group will never enquire into. If they see N.C.N.C.-controlled councils, by one excuse or another they get these councils dissolved. But in the same Western Region there are councils which cannot meet up their financial commitments, there are councils whose cheques have been dishonoured by banks in the Western Region.

**The Chairman :** I think this is a most irrelevant speech.

**Mr Akande :** Mr Chairman, I thank you but one thing is very very important that is that the relationship between members of the Cabinet. There must be something wrong with the injection of Action Group Members into the Cabinet. . . . .

**The Chairman :** That is something far bigger than this Supplementary Budget.

**Mr Akande :** Mr Chairman, I am referring to the Rapson Report. Ever before this Report was published, there was a challenge from the Action Group asking the Federal Government to publish the report and see that they have been vindicated. How do these people manage to know that the Rapson Report vindicated them ? That is my point, Mr Chairman. This afternoon while the hon. Mr Jaja was speaking the Minister interrupted. It follows then that it is a very big mistake for these Action Group Ministers to be in the Cabinet. Mr Chairman, the time has come when the Lagos Town Clerk should be sacked. The man should go at once. He should leave now now now.

One other important matter is that no penny should go to the Lagos Town Council until they have complied with the decisions of the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power. They know how to evade his decisions and unless he puts certain barriers they will never learn. So I hope the Minister will listen to the voice of this House and when we adjourn we will hear that this Council has been dissolved and a caretaker council appointed.



**Mallam Sanni O. B. Okin** (North Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to express my congratulations to the Minister of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power. It was surprising and I have never read it in any paper before that people collect money without issuing receipts. I am speaking from authority as a supervisor of accounts. I have been wondering and I have made up my mind to write to the Regional Government that I have seen wonders in Lagos, people collecting money without issuing receipts. That is not legal. Anyway I have to express my congratulations to the Minister of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power.

In fact this is not the first time that such an enquiry was made in Lagos and rejected by the Government. I could remember thirty years ago Mr Price, the Resident of Oyo Province, was asked to make a certain enquiry in Lagos and the Government rejected the Report and another enquiry was set up and that was effectively conducted by Mr Whitely. It is very surprising. My learned Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode, has not made mention that to collect money without issuing receipts is illegal. Mr Chairman I could remember that some months ago I stated in this House that the Minister should conduct an enquiry into the mal-administration of the Lagos Town Council. It was not heeded at that time, but to my surprise later an enquiry was conducted. Another enquiry must be conducted into the administration of the Lagos Town Council. The Lagos Town Council is woefully bad because we are hearing much about it. The Lagos Town Clerk should be sacked from to-day onwards. Because we have heard much about him. I am not here to reveal all I have collected about him. . . . .

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Reveal.

**Mallam Sanni Okin** : No, I know you. He is the employee of the Town Council but he is dictating to the employers for reasons best known to you. Mr Chairman, I suggest that the Lagos Town Council should be dissolved and that the Lagos Town Clerk should be sacked. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**The Chairman** : I would just remind the Committee that we have got not much over an hour to debate seventeen Heads.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in the first place I would like to know from the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power whether oil has now been discovered in a commercial quantity in Nigeria, and also what is the quality of the oil.

A Special Member (Mr Bathurst) mentioned the road between Akwanga and Wamba and Bukuru. I would like to underline what he said here because I passed that road two months ago and my car was almost shattered.

With regard to the Rapson Report, we are the people dealing with Councils. If there are authorities in the running of Councils, I am one. I can challenge anybody who runs a Council here on any issue involving Council affairs. I am very much surprised to hear from such a respectable man like Fani-Kayode singing such a song, a most discordant song, in connection with illegal collections of money by a Council, after propounding a Marxist theory. I wonder. Can we not listen to public opinion? The public opinion all over the country, and before we came here, after reading the reports of the evidence given is that the Council had committed a most atrocious act and was going to be dissolved and the members taken to court. It was to our greatest surprise that in spite of what is contained in this Report which we have read, somebody appointed a Commissioner had the audacity, had the effrontery, to recommend exoneration of a Council like that. What else can a Council do to earn dissolution? And there are people able to rise here to defend the indefensible!

Imagine that this morning I heard some people who had written in the paper that the Action Group Council is an honest Council, that it shows what that party can do by collecting a certain amount of money without receipt and being able to account for that money when a Commission of Enquiry was set up. Supposing after the collection of that money, and no receipts were given, as we have seen in this Report, the people concerned had died and somebody came to take over the affairs of the Council, what would prevent the new-comer doing away with the money? Or even if that money were used in building stalls, how can the people who raised the money make any claim



House of Representatives Debates

1937 [Supplementary Appropriation 13 AUGUST 1959

Bill : Committee]

1938

for any stall since they have no receipts for the money they say they paid? What have they to do when told by the new Council? "We do not know anything about the money you say you paid"? And we have the Action Groupers outside and inside this House defending the indefensible, and the Town Clerk had the audacity of collecting some people to challenge our Government, telling the people that whether or not the Government approved this Report, the Council was going to continue its policy! How can a Council that has no respect for the Government exist? I wonder! We must face facts now....

**The Chairman :** Can we have a short break for 12 minutes and resume as soon as we can form a quorum.

*Sitting suspended : 4.28 p.m.*

*Sitting Resumed : 4.40 p.m.*

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to clear the air. (*Interruptions*). (*Some hon. Members : you are not coming back*). I am coming back here and I will remain here for as long as I like.

Mr Chairman, the issue of the Rapson Report is a very fundamental one, and it is this. Would it be worth the while to appoint a Commissioner and just treat his report lightly, as it has been done in this instance? I say, Sir, that if at any time the Government decides to appoint a Commission of Enquiry that Government should be honest enough to own up its findings when they are reasonable. (*Interruptions*). I say, when the findings are reasonable and can be maintained. (*Interruptions*). (*Several Members : What of the Alafin Enquiry?*) In respect of the Alafin Enquiry those of you who lay claim to any intelligence will know that every point made by Mr Lloyd was demolished paragraph by paragraph. I have no doubt in my mind that the Minister himself is ashamed of the contribution that the N.C.N.Cers are making. I know that left to him he would prefer to keep silent over this matter.

Mr Chairman, the Rapson Report is a matter of topical interest. You will recall the circumstances that led to the Commission of Enquiry.

It was one fine morning that Mr Benson in his usual irresponsible manner said in this House that some Action Group people collected £90,000 and it was three months after that they went to deposit about three thousand in the Lagos Town Council. Quite rightly, the hon. Minister took up the matter and appointed a Commission of Enquiry to go into the matter. But what did he find? He found that not only was Mr Benson irresponsible.....

**Mr T. O. S. Benson :** Point of Order, Mr Chairman, I never said that £90,000 was collected. I said they collected £30,000 and he is aware of that. They cannot pay the money back.

**Mr Dosunmu :** As I was saying it was Mr Benson who, irresponsibly as I said, gave it to the House that the money that was collected was not deposited, and it was after enquiries had been made that somebody hastily went to the Town Council to deposit the money. What did he find, Sir? In the Report we found that not only was the whole of the amount that was collected deposited, they were deposited as they were being collected. There was no question of somebody going to deposit a lump sum, they were collected on a certain day and deposited on the same day with the Lagos Town Council. It was only after....(*Interruption*).

**Several hon. Members :** What of Mr Oshodi?

**Mr Dosunmu :** Mr Oshodi had to keep the money because the Town Clerk said he was not going to take it. (*Interruption*) because of the allegation of the N.C.N.C.

**The Chairman :** Order, order. We must conduct this debate properly. I have said it once before and I am going to insist that we must listen to both sides calmly and quietly. Mr Dosunmu.

**Mr Dosunmu :** I am much obliged to you, Mr Chairman. I say it without fear of contradiction that if it was an N.C.N.C. man who collected £90,000, he would have vanished; you would not see him at all. As a result of certain enquiries made into the N.C.N.C. Council of 1953, certain of their members went to goal. Not only was the Lagos Town Council itself dissolved as a result of the enquiry, some Councillors were sent to prison. But that is just by the way, Sir.



[MR DOSUNMU .

The point that I am making is that on all material points that went before the Commissioner, he did make findings of facts. How can somebody argue against them? Facts are facts, whether we like them or not. The facts are, Mr Chairman, that the market women want more markets, that is indisputable. One of the reasons why the Minister is demolishing houses all around Lagos is because he wanted Lagos to be widened, and market women to be properly accommodated. It is amazing on this occasion that he would only cut his nose to spite his face. Mr Rapson pointed to that salient fact. The market women must be accommodated somehow.

After Rapson has made that point, what was the attitude of the Government to it? The attitude of the Government was that "it does not matter, the problems will remain". I submit, Sir, that this is a very negative approach and a most unreasonable attitude for any Government to take. One other point Mr Rapson did make was that it is the most sensible arrangement that the Lagos Town Council be paid the money in advance, and he did give reasons for that. No responsible person ought to have found any reason different from Mr Rapson's, who took evidence and went thoroughly into the matter. No man could be more thorough in examining the facts than Mr Rapson, and it would be a shame that instead of the Government attempting to demolish the specific findings of facts one after the other, they went in a cavalier manner and said, "We reject it". It took them almost three months to make up their minds. Rapson submitted his report as far back as May. Why did the Government hide it? Why did they not immediately release it?

**Several hon. Members :** Who told you?

**Mr Dosunmu :** It is in the report, you have not read it. It is there in the Rapson Report. (*Interruptions*). From the very first sentence I knew that Rapson submitted his report in May. The Government did not release it until August. What were they looking for? They were fishing for reasons, they were looking for excuses which they did not get. (*Interruption*).

As I was saying, in rejecting the report Government have left the problem unsolved.

How are they going to deal with the market women that want a market? You cannot get one from Asaba. Mr Rapson has carefully looked into the problem and said the answer is: "Let Oko-Awo be made a market". When the Government quite wrongly... (*Interruption*).

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zana the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Who asked Mr Rapson to recommend that? Who told him to?

**Mr Dosunmu :** That is the problem, and that is the fact you have got to listen to. After all, what do you call irregularity? There was evidence of the total amount paid and the specific addresses of those who paid. There was evidence, on the other hand, that the amount reached the Lagos Town Council. There was also evidence that those who paid acknowledged having paid, and those who received acknowledged receipt of the money. What then is the Minister's bother? What is his concern? The money is there. If you want the congestion in central Lagos to continue you will continue. What is all this play with words? "Nobody asked him to do it"? You are running away from the problem. Are you going to leave central Lagos as it is? I submit, Sir, that the attitude of the Government has been most irresponsible in rejecting the report.

**Several hon. Members :** Withdraw, withdraw.

**Mr Dosunmu :** It brings us to this, that next time when the Minister is appointing a Commission of Enquiry, he may as well give the Commission the answers to the problem beforehand. If the Commissioner gives you the answers that are not satisfactory to you and for that reason you reject them, nobody is going to take you seriously. One should suppose that a Commission of Enquiry should be independent, whether black or yellow, and the Commissioner is supposed to be independent and intelligent. Anybody with intelligence who has read the report will understand it. Many of them do not understand it.

As I was saying, if there was anything to hide, it was so clear. All the people who said they paid money had been asked to come forward. Careful efforts were made to type their names



on the list. Those who genuinely paid found their names, and those who did not pay could not find their names in the list. (*Interruptions*). How many people came forward and said that they paid, and did not find their names on the list? Not one! If you look at the report you will find that the payments were made on various dates. They were not prepared as N.C.N.C. men would do. Mr Chairman, Sir, this matter is one of principle. The Minister has to make up his mind and decide what he will do, whether he will continue to be the enemy of the Town Council or he is going to allow the Town Council to work within its province. And I say this, that the Ministry has just changed. The Ministry was not like this some three or four years ago. (*Interruption*). The Ministry is now degenerating. I say this without fear, Sir, that the Ministry is under a very bad influence. Time was when we had men like Barker and Milne, and so on. They were giving independent advice, they were giving unbiased advice, but with the new hand things are as bad as if they are N.C.N.C. politicians. (*Interruptions*). The Minister has to come back to himself, revise his attitude, be objective, and be reasonable. The only way by which he can do it is to reconsider his attitude to this report. He has already seen the reaction of the people to the Government's decision. I have no doubt that some of your men went to Isalegangan to see the reaction of the women to the report. He may say he has power to rule, but he must rule with the fear of God. He must be sure of what he does. I am only praying, Sir, that he should remain himself as Minister, he was not like this three years ago, he was objective and detached. He should not allow himself to be pushed, rightly or wrongly, by the N.C.N.C. In the interest of the people of Lagos, in the interest of the *masse*, and in his own interest, we still have to recommend the reconsideration of the Government proposal.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson :** Mr Chairman, Sir, we must congratulate the Federal Prime Minister for his tolerance and patience. He is trying to mix oil and water together. That is why you see people like Rosiji and Akintola on the Government bench. They are approbating and reprobating. They go to the Council of Ministers and pretend to be angels. The next minute they are at Oko-Awo doing something that is contrary to parliamentary

procedure. They are fifth Columnist in the Council of Ministers. Yesterday these two Ministers were. . . . (*Interruptions*).

**The Chairman :** A point of order. This is a personal attack on the two Members.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I appeal for the protection of the Chair.

**Several hon. Members :** Sit down, sit down !

**Mr Benson :** These two Ministers yesterday went to Isalegangan to tell the people of Lagos that the two of them were controlling the Council of Ministers.

**Several hon. Members :** That is what they said. Yes, they said so.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** What the hon. Member is saying is absolutely a malicious story.

**Several hon. Members :** Resign, resign !

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** I do not resign ! (*Laughter*).

**The Chairman :** Order, order. If we are to proceed with this debate it must be in calmer atmosphere.

**Mr Benson :** As I said, Sir, the Minister is a sit-tight Minister. Yesterday he told the people of Lagos that both Hausas and Ibos in the Council of Ministers are wasting their time. He said so yesterday. When you see a European in Nigeria who drinks *Pitto*. . . . *laughter*—*Brुकutu*, Palm wine and dances *Kusimilaya*. One should be very careful before one gives him any responsible position. I am saying Sir, that this man, Mr Rapson, should be wrapped up and thrown away.

Mr Chairman, about one month before the Report came out, the 'Daily Service', the official organ of Akintola-Rosiji, gave indications of what the Report would be like but to their utter disappointment the Government rejected the Report and now they say we should go to Court. They as lawyers can go to Court and argue there. But I must remind them that when the Lloyd Report was published at



[MR BENSON]  
Ibadan, Chief Rotimi Williams submitted a statement against that Report and the Alafin of Oyo although he was "freed" by the Report was sent to exile.

Now, those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. This report here has been rejected by the Government and the proper thing to do now is to dissolve the Lagos Town Council and remove Mr Akinbiyi, the Town Clerk of Lagos.

Mr Chairman, Sir, when you see a Government Official riding in an Oldsmobile, costing about £2,500, driving also an Opel and a Jaguar, you must think twice and you must institute an inquiry into that department, the Lagos Town Council. Mr Chairman, you should try to add up what they are earning there at present. Imagine if you add up the salaries of some of them for 25 years it cannot give them what they are trying to do now in 5 to 10 years. They regard their salary as a retainer, and they sit down there making money and how they make it we do not know. Institute an inquiry and you will find these things out.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Mr Rapson was asked to inquire :

(a) whether money was illegally collected and his finding was *yes*.

(b) to know whether Action Group cards were distributed and 1s paid for Action Group cards before you can get a market in Lagos. He found that to be so.

(c) whether the office where this money was being collected was Action Group's Office. He found that to be true, etc., etc.

Mr Chairman, Sir, who gave him the power to make recommendations trying to absolve the Lagos Town Council? When this matter was first raised in the Lagos Town Council meeting Councillor Adeniran Ogunsanya moved a Motion that the Council should absolve themselves from the attitude of the Caretaker Committee of the Lagos Town Council which was one hundred per cent Action Group. The only N.C.N.C. Member was Mr Fred McEwen. He was in London at that time but Mr Ogun moved a Motion that the Lagos Town Council should ratify this illegal collection of money. And Mr Rapson, after drinking *Pitto*, absolved them. Now, Mr Oshodi was having £216 in his possession. Why was it so since he was not the second treasurer of the

Lagos Town Council or the deputy Municipal Treasurer? That was found as a fact but nevertheless this Mr Rapson after drinking *Burukutu* supported them. So I am saying, Sir, that the proper thing to do now, and I mean *now*, is to dissolve the Council.

If I may go further, Sir, it is understood that some of the Action Group members headed by Mr Oshodi are going round Lagos saying that Mr Rapson has absolved the Lagos Town Council and Mr Oshodi and therefore people who have not paid should begin to pay. Government must realise that some of the people may be so stupid as to become victims of the deceit of these men. The Government should therefore make a categorical statement that nobody in Lagos should pay for any new market stalls either at Oko-Awo or at Ereko until Government has announced the opening of a new market for the people of Lagos in which case the market women will have to go to the Lagos Town Council individually, pay money and receive official receipts. The Government should go further to announce and say that anyone who pays money to any person does so at his or her own risk. These deceitful people are going round Lagos requesting market women to sign a memorandum that they do not want their money but they want a market. This is because they know that they are not in a position to refund the money collected from these women and this statement should be given the fullest publicity in the papers and the N.B.C. in all leading languages in Nigeria.

**An hon. Member :** The Member for Lagos indeed !

**Mr Benson :** I know them very well.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to come to another fact ; the Lagos Town Council officials have issued an instruction that the Ajilogo Market, should be demolished. If that Council is sincere and they are making arrangements for a market for the people of Lagos why should they prepare an instruction dated August 12th, 1959—only yesterday—just because the Rapson Report is against them and because they know that the women in that market support the N.C.N.C. ?

With the permission of the Chairman, I shall read it, Sir, if I am not going to take up time. The letter is from the Lagos Town Council, Town Clerk's Department, Municipal



Buildings, Lagos, 12th August, 1959. It is headed Lagos Market Bye-laws—Ajilogo Market.

It reads, "Attention is drawn to the Lagos Town Council Bye-Laws which provides as follows: 'any person who without the permission of the Council erects within a market any stall, shed, building, wall, fence whether affixed to ground or otherwise shall be liable to a fine of £2 and will be required to remove the erection within a reasonable time to be fixed by the Council. If such a person shall refuse to comply with the Order of the Council he shall be liable to an additional penalty of £2 for each 24 hours during which . . .

**The Chairman :** Order, order. There is a limit to the amount that should be read. You have done a good deal of reading.

**Mr Benson :** Mr Chairman, Sir, the point I want to make is this: if the Action Group controlled Lagos Town Council have the interest of the market women of Lagos and if they are sincere in saying that Oko-Awo should be made a market, why should they now come to issue a statement that the women occupying the Ajilogo Market should quit? I do not know where they want them to go. I do not know whether my irresponsible Dosunmu will have to give them his house to be used as a market or whether they should go into the house of Dr Doherty or Akintola to hold their market.

Mr Chairman, Sir, there are other matters affecting the people of Lagos—the *Omolankes* and *Bolekajas*. But I think we shall have to leave them until next time.

**Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra) :** We should take facts when they are presented. Every one of us has respect for Lagos and we will like to give it a first class name in the whole world. It is very shameful to hear some Members—legal practitioners—comment on Lagos as they have done. I am ashamed to see some lawyers, lawyers who have now become liars and not lawyers, support matters blindly because of political differences. However, I am congratulating the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power for his attitude towards Lagos but I am going to blame him for being so lenient to the Lagos Town Council. Now, may I ask "how did they manage to collect this money?" Did they obtain any authority from the Government?"

**Several hon. Members :** No !

**Mr Ohiani :** If any inquiry is instituted now you will have more of this malpractice done by the Council—money collected and no receipts—and they call themselves responsible people. Lagos is the capital of Nigeria and to have a Council in it behaving like this is very shameful. May I know the Party actually controlling this Council ?

**Several hon. Members :** Action Group.

**Mr Ohiani :** No wonder. I have said it once that until we wipe out the Action Group from the country things will not be all right. They have no fear of God at all. The only thing to do is that the decision of a Government should stand and let the Council be dissolved now and the Town Clerk put under arrest pending further investigation.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to reply to some of the points raised by hon. Members, very briefly.

The hon. Rev. Bens made a very contradictory statement. First of all he said that oil is very important and valuable and so the Government should do everything possible to see that its interest in the industry is safeguarded. He then criticised the amount put in this Estimate for a petroleum adviser and a petroleum consultant. Well, if you want to safeguard the interest of the Government certainly you must have some people, high powered people, to act as the watchdog of the Government. The petroleum engineer, the first about whom one you asked me to explain, up till now we have not been able to get one. In the original Estimates we advertised the post at a salary of £2,500. No man of that standing would look at that amount and now we raised it to £4,000 with the hope, only the hope, of getting somebody. Oil is produced now in your area, it is very easy for you to ask the Engineers there what salaries they are getting before you come here and say that this salary is excessive.

The second question of the hon. Member is related to the oil consultant. Before the oil production in Nigeria came to this stage the Government had a retainer in the name of Professor Eling—most of you must have heard his name—and I can assure you that he is



[MINISTER OF LAGOS AFFAIRS]  
second to none in the oil industry. Now the production of oil has come to such a stage that I feel I will be safe in saying in this House that oil has been found in commercial quantity (*Prolonged applause*). It is therefore necessary to have a high-powered consultant who will advise Government on very difficult matters arising in the oil industry. In the first place we have tried several people but the least offer we had was £10,000 a year. Because I know that some misinformed people in this House will criticise it, I came down to £4,000 and I had to go down on my knees begging Professor Eling to take that salary not because it was attractive but because I know that he has the interest of the country at heart. I would like to inform you that when there was an outbreak at Awka the man who was flown from America to put out the fire was paid £1,000 per hour. In this matter, Sir, we need specialised people to undertake the job. The people are not just the people who we can go along the street and pick-up. They are very very difficult to find.

The Hon. Jaja Wachuku asked what the Government is doing with regard to training Nigerians to be oil engineers. I have, already made a statement in this House sometime ago, but I would like to repeat the same again. Five officers of the Mines Department are on courses in Holland originated by Shell-B.P. If you ask what we have been doing the answer is five engineers who have been working in the Mines Department are now in the Hague to study about petroleum.

**An hon. Member :** That is not enough.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** I am coming to that. One further officer of the Mines Department is also to go to the Royal School of Mines next month. And, again, we have asked the Secretary of State to reserve six places for us in British Universities for a course in petroleum technology. (*Applause*). Sir, negotiations are in progress with C.C.T.A. for assistance to provide scholarships to a French School of Petroleum Technology. And you can see, Sir, that we are not ignoring the necessity of training Nigerians to be engineers in the oil industry.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Tell us something about Afam.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** I have already said that the Afam

oil is the best. When I last visited Owerri and Port Harcourt I found so many Nigerians—I forget the number but the number was very big—and I would say all these people must have come either from Aba or Mbawsi or from Owerri, or anyway from the area of operations. Therefore, you must rest assured that the people in whose area the oil is found by way of training are getting their fair share.

Some speakers have mentioned the Rapson Report. I do not think that after the Government has taken a decision I should speak on this Report at length. The allegations were made and it took me about four months to come to a decision whether I should recommend to the Council of Ministers to appoint an Inquiry. Eventually the Commissioner was appointed and he conducted his enquiry and the Report was very carefully studied by the Government and the Government decided to reject the Report. The reasons why the Report should be rejected have been clearly laid down so there is no doubt whatsoever about anything.

I am very sorry to notice that a man like the hon. Dosunmu cannot read the Report intelligently. You cannot hide the facts, they are all in the Report. And even the Town Council, if it is a reasonable Town Council, will throw this Report overboard. No reasonable man in the world will say that this Report is in your favour and the Government in rejecting this Report is unreasonable. Read the Report. All these people can read it and digest it, and then they can draw conclusions by themselves. The hon. T. O. S. Benson told you how the Report should be read. When you read the Report forget that you are a lawyer, and that you are not in Court. You must understand that there are several laymen—I mean some educated people—who can read and understand what is contained in the Report no matter what conclusion the Commissioner reached. You can fool the market women, not this House (*Applause*). And I can tell you, you cannot continue to fool the market women indefinitely. There must be a time when they will have their eyes opened wide and they can then read this Report and digest it. Chief Onyia said here, that if you pay me five shillings and I do not give you receipt, what right have you to come to me and claim the money. None whatsoever.



House of Representatives Debates

1949 [Supplementary Appropriation 13 AUGUST 1959

Bill : Committee]

1950

As I said, after very careful consideration the Government have put its view clearly why the Report should be rejected and I can assure the House that the Government have done that with good intention and nothing else.

**An hon. Member :** Why was the Town Clerk not fired ?

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** Because he is not an employee of the Government.

**The Chairman :** I do think we ought to come to a decision on one vote to save hard work at the end. I will call Dr Mbadiwe if he wishes.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that you gave me this opportunity because I would feel very worried to have such a serious debate and gone home without saying something on it. It touches something which is fundamental. That is the Rapson Report.

Before I go into it I will. . . (*Interruptions*). I am here elected to represent my people and I will say what I want to say at any given time not minding what anybody can tell me.

Let me say in a few words that the Ministry as a whole, the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, can be considered as one of the most dynamic of Ministries (*Applause*). I want to put that on record without fear or without favour. That we can have low income workers' quarters—it is one clear thing that has been done in this country—that we can have workers living in a place for sixteen shillings and six pence. It is an achievement. The credit goes to the person and the Government as a whole.

Then the question of Shell Company. We must pay tribute to the Shell Company for the announcement that they are surveying to undertake refinery in this country. It is another big step forward. You can produce oil and sell it as crude oil in other parts of the world, but the benefit, the economic benefit and the development and employment which comes from a refinery would have been lost to this country. So that in the early stages which they are taking to do that, they should be encouraged and I want this House to give them that encouragement to show that we appreciate that move.

The Afam well. For any one single person to claim that the oil comes from his area is to raise a legal issue : where it begins and where it ends ; it may begin at Orlu and end at Aba (*Laughter*).

Sir, I now come to Rapson. Let me say this, I do not like—and I want to emphasise that I do not like—how the man who undertook the enquiry was attacked on the Floor of this House. I can stand up and speak in this honourable House any day. Mr Chairman, any person can undertake a report. If you do not like his report, say so, but do not impute motives because tomorrow—and I am speaking of the future—if people cannot speak their minds (*Interruption*) because thousands of millions cannot accept it, then we are lost. We have no freedom. (*Hon. Members : Shame*). That is what I am trying to prevent (*prolonged interruption*).

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) :** You are an individual.

**The Chairman :** Order. Chief Onyia is catching my attention particularly in interruptions in an intolerable manner. He must desist, and the rest of the Committee must listen in silence while we finish this debate.

**Chief Onyia :** But he is shouting on us.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I must say that the conclusions by Rapson, his finding one way or the other, I am not debating. It is his principle. He has done his duty just as any Minister of State. We come here to criticise not to impute motives. I do not know Rapson whether he is tall or short. But we must show the world that we can defend men so that they can do their duty without fear or favour any day.

I must say further that the question of people coming to defend the failure to issue receipts. A big government like the Lagos Town Council not issuing receipt for money collected, then we come to bypass it. I will not be a party to it. Receipts must be issued. (*Applause*). I am not trying to gain the encomium of anybody ; I am here to satisfy my independent mind.

Another thing which I say and which I raise misgivings here is this : the question of Government rejecting the Report. I base my contention on what I hold to be sacred to me. I remember that but for the Minister who set



[DR MBADIWE]  
up this Inquiry, but for him and the Ministers on the other side, his colleagues, who knew that at one stage in a previous Government, for certain issues about the Lloyd affair and the Alafin, we were going with our resignation to Sir John MacPherson, but for Ribadu who met us on the way. That is, hon. Njoku and myself took a decision—hon. Mbu was away—we took a decision over certain issues. So that when I speak I do not speak that I have any motive. I will leave the two big parties in their politics with which I am not concerned. But there are things which are fundamental, which have cost me many a pain in life and when I speak of them I do know what is good. It was prevented by Ribadu.

An inquiry was set up in the Western Region about the Alafin of Oyo. When the Lloyd Report came and the Report was rejected despite the eloquent way in which Rotimi wrote the contention why it should be rejected, I replied saying it ought not to be. And to-day the same thing, when a commission has been set up, it is a responsibility when it is set up, and to say you reject, in the same way that I criticised that other rejection, I will criticise this one, with the Government having the right to make its observations on the Report. There was one in which the terms of reference were not adhered to. I have read about that but I am speaking on principle not that I want to take sides. Once I have cleared my mind on what I feel I am happy.

Finally this is the second time that the Town Clerk has been mentioned in Reports. One was under the Storey Commission and he is again in this. The Government in its recommendation has said that they are directing the attention of the Council to that particular event. I think I like the conclusion of the Chairman of the Lagos Town Council which is different from the conclusion drawn by Mr Dosunmu. He said that the weight of Government recommendation cannot be ignored. No town council can ignore or speak about this Government of which we happen to be the legislators with contempt that can be tolerated in the Floor of this House. The Government has the right to rule and why we people are here to criticise and give our views is that it is only a few who can rule at any one given time. It will not be more than thirty people ruling 33 million people. It is a very

severe responsibility which is entrusted to you for the life and liberty of so many millions. And when we speak, we speak in that vein, that any one of us would be involved at any given day, and our relatives. So that we think not only of the present but sight the future, in our own deliberations.

So, Mr Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity which has been given me to express myself. Whether that expression is welcome is immaterial and whether that expression is not welcome is immaterial to me, but the opportunity which God has given me to express myself, and I have done it, is the independence which I am looking for. Without it, independence is nothing to me.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** On point of information, Mr Chairman. I want to ask whether the Minister can give us a day to debate this report considering that some of us have just skipped off and left this particular item. We will be most grateful to have a scheduled date to debate the report.

**The Chairman:** That, of course, is not relevant to this debate. It might be relevant on the adjournment.

*Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.*

Question, that £32,830 for Head 43—Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—stand part of the Schedule, put and *agreed to*.

And it being 5.45 p.m., the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to Order (11th August), to put forthwith successively the Questions necessary to dispose of the Votes for Heads 44 to 59.

**HEAD 44.—MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION**

£19,880 for Head 44—Ministry of Research and Information—*agreed to*.

**HEAD 45.—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)**

£10 for Head 45—Agriculture (Research)—*agreed to*.

**HEAD 47.—FORESTRY (RESEARCH)**

£460 for Head 47—Forestry (Research)—*agreed to*.

**HEAD 48.—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)**

£1,260 for Head 48—Veterinary (Research)—*agreed to*.



House of Representatives Debates

1953 [Supplementary Appropriation Bill] 13 AUGUST 1959 [Adjournment : Illicit Traffic in 1954  
dangerous Drugs]

HEAD 49.—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY

£16,330 for Head 49—Ministry of Commerce  
and Industry—*agreed to*.

HEAD 50.—MARKETING AND EXPORTS

£12,130 for Head 50—Marketing and Ex-  
ports—*agreed to*.

HEAD 51.—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

£80,050 for Head 51—Ministry of Transport  
—*agreed to*.

**Mr Speaker :** There is a typographical  
error in Head 52, sub-head 1, item 164A.  
Will hon. Members please alter Group 7 to  
read Group 6.

HEAD 52.—INLAND WATERWAYS

£55,670 for Head 52—Inland Waterways—  
*agreed to*.

HEAD 53.—COASTAL AGENCY

£10 for Head 53.—Coastal Agency—*agreed*  
*to*.

HEAD 54.—MINISTRY OF WORKS

£37,230 for Head 54—Ministry of Works—  
*agreed to*.

HEAD 55.—LEGISLATURE

£89,250 for Head 55—Legislature—*agreed*  
*to*

HEAD 56.—JUDICIAL

£3,970 for Head 56—Judicial—*agreed to*.

HEAD 57.—LEGAL

£10 for Head 57—Legal—*agreed to*.

HEAD 58.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

£10 for Head 58—Public Service Commission  
—*agreed to*.

HEAD 59.—AUDIT

£1,500 for Head 59—Audit—*agreed to*.

£2,000,000 for Head 61—Contributions to  
the Development Fund—*agreed to*. (Governor-  
General's Recommendations *signified*).

Question, That the First Schedule, as  
amended, stand part of the Bill, put and *agreed*  
*to*.

Second Schedule *agreed to*.

Postponed Clause 1 *agreed to*.

Postponed Clause 2 amended and *agreed to*.

Postponed Clause 3 *agreed to*.

Preamble *agreed to*.

*Bill to be reported.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Bill reported with amendments.*

And in pursuance of Standing Order 63, the  
Minister of Finance moved :

That the Bill be now read the third time and  
passed.

Mr Speaker then proceeded to put the  
Question thereupon to the House without  
amendment or debate..

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

**Mr Speaker :** The first notice of a subject  
to be raised is from Dr Awduche.

**Dr E. O. Awduche** (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker,  
Sir, I wish to seize this opportunity to bring to  
the notice of the Federal Government a matter  
of grave national urgency which affects the lives,  
happiness and prosperity of the teeming mil-  
lions of the people of Nigeria, scattered through-  
out the Federation. It is the widespread  
menace of illicit traffic in dangerous drugs.

There is widespread illicit traffic in medicines  
by unqualified persons throughout the Federa-  
tion of Nigeria : people giving injections and  
carrying stethoscopes and impersonating Doc-  
tors. Some firms sell poisons to traders,  
traders sell poisons specially in the open  
market, and some chemists sell poisons without  
doctors' prescription. The dangers of this  
kind of traffic are that these quack injections  
give rise to consequent debilitating effects.  
There are multilating abscesses and sudden  
premature deaths. But the worst of all is  
drug-fastness. People get drug-fasts and new  
drugs become ineffective. Drugs that have  
been specially made for the treatment of an  
illness like tuberculosis become ineffective from  
unorthodox use and from the fact that they have  
been given in incorrect proportions.

This is a very serious matter affecting the  
health of the people, and I think I should  
bring it to the notice of the Federal Government  
so that the Government should take necessary  
steps. I agree it is not really a matter for one  
Government alone, it affects all the Govern-  
ments. But I hope the Minister of Health will  
make some statement on this very vital matter.



**The Minister of Health** (Chief the hon. Ayo Rosiji): Mr Speaker, Sir, I greatly welcome the opportunity to speak on the matter raised by the hon. Member, because I am determined that the Federal Government should give a lead in suppressing the illicit traffic in drugs and poisons. But first let me make the legal and constitutional position clear.

The legal and constitutional position is that, in regard to drugs and poisons, except in respect of the Federal Territory of Lagos the Federal Government has no power to legislate or to enforce legislation on drugs and poisons other than drugs of addiction. Drugs of addiction are defined within a very small and circumscribed sphere. Legislation—and the enforcement of legislation—in regard to drugs and poisons which are not drugs of addiction, is a Regional matter. The existing provisions of the Pharmacy Ordinance relating to drugs and poisons and the sale of drugs and poisons take effect as Regional legislation: the enforcement of these provisions is accordingly a Regional matter.

That is the legal and constitutional position. On my part, I feel that it is incumbent upon the Federal Government to take positive steps which will enable all Governments of the Federation to tackle the grave problem referred to by the hon. Member. Clearly we cannot change the Constitution. I have accordingly given instructions that steps be taken to draft effective legislation which will deal with the problem within the Federal territory of Lagos, in the hope and expectation that Regional Governments will proceed to enact similar and inter-locking legislation, on the pattern set by the Federal Government.

I propose also that on this and on similar matters there should be set up effective machinery for inter-Regional consultation of Medical and Health matters, as I am only too well aware that *inter alia*, such things as germs and bacteria show no appreciation of the existence of Regional boundaries. Both these are matters which will command my immediate further attention as soon as this honourable House has risen.

Meanwhile I would commend to the hon. Member the virtue of direct action by members of the medical profession and the public in the Eastern Region, by the report of the abuses about which they complain to the Police, for suitable action in the Courts. So far as I am aware, there has been little in the way of prosecutions arising from complaints registered by medical practitioners or the public. Their active and public-spirited co-operation, would, I am certain, be a source of gratification to the Eastern Regional Government. I think that if these actions are taken by members of the public they will go a long way to eradicate these anomalies.

**Mr Speaker:** Does Mallam Mormoni Bazza, wish to raise his point?

**M. Mormoni Bazza** (North Adamawa Trust Territory): No, Sir.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at one minute to six o'clock.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Friday, 14th August, 1959

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. The following papers, already distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid on the Table :

(1) Statement of Development Fund Supplementary Warrants issued under Rules 5 (1) and (2) of the Rules for the operation of the Development Fund.

(2) Statement of Capital Virement Warrants issued under Rules 5 (2A) and (2B) of the Rules for the operation of the Development Fund.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Research and Information** : *Second Reading* Tomorrow.

NOTICE OF MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that the proceedings on Government business be exempted, at the Sittings Tomorrow and upon Monday next, from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), and that Government Business shall be taken at the following times :

(a) Tomorrow from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. ;

(b) Upon Monday next from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. and from 9 p.m. onwards.

Sir, I beg to move. †

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

*Question proposed.*

**Chief J. I. O. Onyia** (Asaba) : Mr Speaker, it is not my intention to oppose the Government but I would rather wish to appeal to the Government to reconsider its decision, especially in respect of the night sitting. It is said that what is done in a hurry is never done well, and I would add to that that what is done under

strain of mental exhaustion is never done well. I had protested in this House against some element of hurry. I do not know why the Government should not allow us to sit say on Wednesday with a view to dealing with this remaining issue after Monday's sitting in the afternoon, instead of coming to the House in the night to deal with the remaining Bills on Monday. Mine is an appeal and I hope our Prime Minister will reconsider.

**Oba Adetunji A'yeola, Afolu II** (Ijebu Remo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, although I see that the Government will not go back on its word, I should like to point out that as this is a valedictory meeting the Government should have considered it more reasonable to extend the time of our sitting until about Tuesday next week. If we look round, Sir, at the Racecourse, you will find so many women waiting to listen to the Rapson Report. They never knew that the debate on Rapson Report would have come up for discussion yesterday under the Administrative Division of the Lagos Town Council. Also, Sir, as we have so many important Bills like the Bill for the Oba and Chiefs of Lagos, the Lagos Amendment Ordinance and the very popular Nurses Bill, I think the Government should not have crowded all these programmes together. It is very bad indeed, Sir.

**Chief J. Mpi** (Ahoada) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am rising to support the motion. I do not see the reason why we should all aim at remaining here. After all, this is not the first time of night sitting. I support the Government that we proceed with the business as usual, finish with it and go back to our different homes and campaign for the elections. Here is an Action Group man telling us now we should suspend the business until Tuesday or Wednesday and he keeps on packing his gang of women here and so on. Sir, I do not see anything bad in the motion and I support it wholeheartedly.

**M. Nuhu Bamalli** (Central Zaria) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. If we are to be honest, Gentlemen, I think it is only our physical part which is in this House. Our minds are all in our constituencies and I think the shorter we stay in Lagos the better it will be for everybody and therefore if we really want to get down to finish the business we have to agree to long sitting even in the night. I therefore support, Sir.



**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Chief H. Omo-Osagie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support wholeheartedly the Motion which was introduced into this House by the hon. the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister knows the conditions and the situation at the moment prevailing in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria. The election fever is on and the Prime Minister has done so well to allow the Members to go to their various constituencies to campaign for the elections, although Oba Aiyeola is not coming to this House.

**M. Abdulkadiri Koguna, Wakilin Riyogi** (East Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. The Prime Minister and his colleagues, Sir, are sensible enough to present to this House this Motion and by making everything so short. Our friend there was talking about the women. We know that the women have been instigated by the Action Group. How many times have we seen their Ministers there? I support the Motion, Mr Speaker.

**Mr D. L. G. Olateju** (Oshun North): Mr Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Prime Minister's Motion with an important reason. He is a true gentleman and in moving he has moved gentlemanly. In his talking he talks gentlemanly, and I believe that we should pass this Motion gentlemanly. At this present time in every area the election is coming and I do not think it fair to waste our time here. We should go home in time. I got a message from home yesterday that I should come home to-day because people are causing confusion in my place now because of my absence. So I pray the Prime Minister to see that the business is rushed so that we can go back in time.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would have liked the Prime Minister not to have moved this Motion at all because Members will say they want to go home but they owe it as a duty to the people of this country particularly as this is the last session to do their duty. Now, Saturday is half day and they want us to sit till 2 p.m. on Saturday and then on Monday in the night. The result will be that Members will not have a second Tuesday for our own private business. I think that is most unfair. At a time like this there are a number of motions people want to table before they go away. Now the Government wants

to take all the time in order to finish the Government's business and then close down and we go away without doing our own business. I think that is most unfair. We have got to do our job here. We might as well do the normal job on Monday, have our Tuesday, finish up on Wednesday and then we can go home.

For a long time this has been going on. The Government has not enabled us at least to have two Tuesdays. If I may refer to the original cyclostyled paper that was sent to us, the Prime Minister was supposed to be answering on the last day, according to this paper, Sir. It says here, "Order of Questions—Wednesday 5th August to Thursday 20th August, 1959". That is the thing circulated to all of us. We were under the impression that this House would last until the 20th. The Government has not taken the Business Committee and the Parliamentary Parties into consideration. There is no mutual negotiation about this matter. The Government just used the authority of the Prime Minister; they hide under the cloak of the Prime Minister to cover and force the thing down our throats. The Prime Minister should not have moved this motion at all.

Not only that, Sir, a number of White Papers have been circulated here. There is one dealing with Research; there is the Rapson Report; there is the Niger and Benue Rivers White Paper, there are so many other papers and so many Bills. Surely I think the Government would want to be able to do justice to these Bills. It is not even fair to the Government. It is true we are going to the elections. All of us will be going to the elections. But what is it? I mean, if we rush the whole Bills and pass them like this, how can we come tomorrow and say we have given considerable attention to these Bills? Those who want to go should go. So long as we have the quorum of 50 here, we can proceed to do our work. I will through you, Sir, ask the Prime Minister to withdraw this motion. . . .

**Chief J. Mpi** (Ahoada): On a point of Order, Mr Speaker, the Member has nobody to worry him in his constituency.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku**: Mr Speaker, that is no justification. It is not only election. I feel that I have a duty to the public of this country and I feel there are so many important White



Papers still to be debated and I feel that in rounding up the good and meritorious work that the Government along with Members have done, we should finish up in a nice way, not in the usual abrupt manner. This meeting is an exceptional one—the concluding meeting of five years' hard work. One would have thought that Government would have had at least a Private Members' Day and one special day to consider these White Papers. Now, on Saturday when I want to do some shopping you want me to stay behind. . . . .

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : You want to go to your girl friend ?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** : Well, I have my wife here and I have my children here with me.

I am very serious about this, Sir. We would like to take this opportunity to ask the Prime Minister what is the intention of the Government in respect of all these White Papers that have been tabled ? We have never had an opportunity to debate a White Paper at the instance of the Members, Members seek an opportunity to debate certain White Papers, for instance this question of the Niger and Benue Scheme. It is of great importance. It will involve a lot of money. There are other White Papers of such importance. Are we going to hear that these things are going to be implemented without Members having an opportunity to know what they involve ? I think it is not fair to us. The Prime Minister has been very fair in most cases when he finds that reasonable points have been made ; and I ask him that this is most reasonable, and I ask him to withdraw this and enable us to proceed and at last adjourn on Wednesday.

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Resolved** : That the Proceedings on Government Business be exempted, at the Sittings Tomorrow and upon Monday next, from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House), and that Government Business be taken at the following times—

(a) Tomorrow from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.

(b) Upon Monday next from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. and from 9 p.m. onwards.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLY (THIRD ALLOTTED DAY) :  
COMMITTEE

(House in Committee)

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL  
EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

### HEAD 601—LOANS

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Forty-five Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

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

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Resolved** : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60, under Head 601—Loans, be approved.

### HEAD 602—HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

**The Minister of Finance** : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million and Eighty-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges, be approved.

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

*Question proposed.*

**M. Nuhu Bamalli** (Central Zaria) : Mr Chairman, Sir, . . . . .

**The Chairman** : I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon. I am bound to call Mr Okay who has proposed an Amendment.

**Mr D. D. U. Okay** (Port Harcourt) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am particularly happy to speak on this item. Thrice I had stood up



[MR OKAY]

in the Floor of this House and appealed to the Government to do something about the approach road to Port Harcourt. The Government has at last listened to my appeals and provided that sum of £212,000 for the work. On behalf of my people of Port Harcourt, I congratulate the Government.

One point I wish to make is this : it is in the form of information. For years the Port Harcourt Council have borne the expenditure of maintaining the approach road at a terrific cost with their slender finances. Is the Government considering some sort of reimbursement or compensation for the Council? It will be magnanimous of the Government to give the Council some *dash* for shouldering the responsibility of the Government all these years.

Speaking on this Head generally, Mr Chairman, Sir, I must say that I am not convinced that our road policy gives due regard to future development. We must recognise that in the very near future the volume of traffic will increase considerably. We are not making any progress if, by our own admission, roads built under this programme are outmoded even before completion because of the weight of traffic. It is no credit, Sir, that we should admit that estimates in most cases were framed without detailed survey....

**The Chairman :** The hon. Gentleman has limited himself by putting down his Amendment on a particular sub-head—bituminous surfacing. If he wants to talk on the Head as a whole, he ought to wait.

**Mr Okay :** I support the Head. Mr Chairman.

**The Chairman :** Does Mr Alege wish to move his particular point? On which sub-head?

**Mr R. T. Alege (Kabba) :** Sub-head 15. Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Works has started to tar the road but he stopped at Ajase, leaving it at about 180 miles between Ajase and Lokoja. Now, Sir, if the Government is willing to spend the money on this road, the best thing is to tar the road because of the increasing volume of traffic in that part of the country. Whenever the P.W.D. work on the road and we have rains, the rain washes all the gravel away. So I am appealing to the Government to rather consider the tarring of the road I beg to withdraw, Sir.

**The Chairman :** Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 15 by £10.

**An hon. Member :** He is withdrawing, Sir.

**The Chairman :** Really, I must protest that Members do know that they are not entitled to speak with nothing before them. If an Amendment is down in the name of a Member, if he chooses to move he may speak, but he must not make a speech and then withdraw what he is supposed to be moving. I shall take the Amendment to reduce the Head if Mr Nsima wishes to move that.

**Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I am moving to reduce Head 602 by £10. I am aware of the need up to this moment of reconstructing that terrible bridge between Uyo and Oron. I remember that early in 1955 in this House the then Minister of Works promised me that that bridge was to be reconstructed to meet modern traffic requirements. That bridge, we all know, has been the grave of Nigerians and foreigners alike, and there is every need, especially as we are approaching independence, to reconstruct that bridge so as to make it capable of carrying the heavy traffic from Calabar and all around that area to Lagos for the people who would like to witness the independence celebrations. I have to say this, that the independence of this country cannot be taken for granted, and that it is not expected that there are men, people of Nigeria dwelling in any one section of the country, who would not like to witness the independence celebrations of this country.

There will be a lot of traffic to pass over that bridge on the eve of independence, and the bridge is bound to collapse if left in this state. Before this Federation is thrown into mourning on the eve of independence, it is essential that this bridge be reconstructed forthwith.

Another point is, the other time when I was commenting on the Supplementary Budget speech of the Minister of Finance, I mentioned the fact that our roads are very crooked. There are far too many bends....

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot-Ekpene) :** Not Rev. Bens.

**Mr Nsima :** Not Rev. Bens. This is B-E-N-D-S. I suggested that there is a need to reconstruct our roads in order to remove



the bends. We are going to have visitors to this country. Some of them have very good roads in their country and when coming to Nigeria they would expect to have good roads on which to travel to visit other parts of Nigeria. It would be a great disappointment for somebody who has been travelling on very good highways in his own country to come and travel on these bush paths that we call highways in Nigeria.....

**Some hon. Members :** Americanism !

**Mr Nsima :** I am asking for the type of highways that we have in the United States. One would like to compare. One should go out and see roads in other countries, and I am sure that our Ministers who have travelled have seen the roads in other parts of the world. And I challenge them to tell me if the roads they have seen outside are equivalent to the roads that we have in this country.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Those I saw there are *inside* but those we have here are *outside*.

**Mr Nsima :** I am not asking too much, Sir. I am only asking for a re-survey to remove the bends and the ruggedness, to see that we in Nigeria too, as a part of our development, have good roads.

Now, we want to create tourist industry. Are we sure that there will be good roads leading to all these establishments? Are we expecting that people should come here and rent cars to travel to where our tourist industries are established and they suddenly realise that as they are travelling on these roads there are dangerous bends, treacherous corners to run into, because it is difficult to discover them, and they run into these dangerous corners and perish? (*Some hon. Members : Fire ! Fire !*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, whether we like it or not, the future will tell. We will come to realise the importance of this speech that I am making, that there is need to strengthen our roads. I know that if this Legislature will not be capable of doing what I am just asking for now, the very simple thing that I am asking for now, future Legislatures will prove me correct.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot-Ekpene): Yes. You are right.

**An hon. Member :** How do you know ?

**Mr Nsima :** You cannot understand what I am talking about. You have never seen good roads. (*Laughter*).

**The Minister of Finance :** He comes from Uyo, you know.

**Mr Nsima :** I am talking about somebody who has travelled out of this country, somebody who has seen good roads, both in the United States and Europe. I know what I am talking about.

Mr Chairman, Sir, these are the two important points that I wish to make on this Head, and that is why I have asked that if these points are not taken and considered now, this Head should be reduced by £10.

Mr Chairman, I move.

*Amendment proposed.*

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Mr Chairman, Sir, Members need not bother that I have stood up so soon. I will stand up again to answer more of your questions. But I feel it would be appropriate here if I give a brief survey of what we have so far achieved in our Highways and Bridges Programme. Later on, Mr Chairman, I will come back and try to answer hon. Members one by one.

Before I speak about the principal details in the Supplementary Estimates for my Ministry, I would like to take the opportunity to give Members some information on specific points that have been raised in debate on the subject of Highways and Bridges during the Second Reading of the Draft Estimates.

Mr Chairman, the hon. Mr Abii made some complimentary references to my stewardship, for which I am grateful. But he thought that the trunk road from Lagos to Ibadan was neglected. I am happy to tell the hon. Member that the stretch of the trunk road A. 9 between mile 94½ and Ibadan will be reconstructed as part of the current Programme, and certain other minor improvements carried out elsewhere. These include the widening of the bridge at mile 62-63, which my hon. Friend Oba Aiyeola referred to. The work on this will start as soon as the water level drops sufficiently to allow the erection of a bailey bridge.

Hon. Abii also, Sir, was concerned with trunk road A.6 between Owerri and Aba. Here I can report that the bridges at mile 28 at



## [MINISTER OF WORKS]

Owerrinta are due for reconstruction under the current Economic Programme. Another trunk road in the Eastern Region which my attention was drawn to, this time by the hon. Member from Ikom, is trunk road A.11 which crosses through Ogoja Province. The hon. Member will be glad to hear that work is about to start on the stretch between Abakaliki and Yahe, that is bituminous surfacing, and that minor improvements will also be carried out between Enugu and Abakaliki.

The hon. Member for Kano East reminded me of the need to tar the stretch of trunk road A.1 from Danbatta to Daura. I am very mindful of this need, Mr Chairman, and I hope to meet the hon. Member's wishes in my plans for improving trunk road A.1 under contractor finance arrangements. I was also reminded by him of dangerous corners on trunk road A.21 east of Kano. Of the bridges mentioned by the hon. Member I was only aware of the need to improve that at milestone 37, and a survey of this bridge is now in progress. I will call for a report on the other two bridges mentioned by my hon. Friend. Another Member from the Northern Region, the hon. Obaje, asked what was being done for trunk road A.13 in Igala Division. I am glad to tell the hon. Member that £20,000 has been allocated for its rehabilitation during the current year.

Both the hon. Mr Ajasin and Oba the hon. Aiyeola have referred to the delay in proceeding with the construction of the trunk road between Ijebu-Ode and Benin. I share the desire of the hon. Members to push forward with this important project. It will be recalled that the contract for the construction of this road was first let out on a fixed fee basis in 1952. This type of contract was admittedly unsatisfactory and has since been abandoned, but at that time the lack of supervisory staff left no alternative. Progress on the road was so slow and costly that it was felt necessary to hold a departmental enquiry into the reasons for the high cost and the delay. This inquiry was held last year and found that the main causes for the unsatisfactory state of affairs were the lack of forward planning and the initial inadequacy of specifications in relation to future traffic requirements. Progress was seriously prejudiced by the exceptionally heavy rains of 1957, thus adding considerably to the costs, and present day "know how" in

soil techniques was not applied to the project. Resulting from the inquiry, and on advice, I arranged for the whole project to be exhaustively reappraised so that the plans for continuing the work might be soundly based and related to the heavy traffic expected in the future on this vital link in our East/West communications. This study is now virtually completed, and plans, specifications and contract documents are under preparation. The way will then be open for proceeding with the construction of the road by contractor finance arrangements.

More than one Member, Mr Chairman, expressed their opinion on the merits of carrying out major projects by the system known as contractor finance, that is by deferred payment. As the Minister of Works and Surveys, I am primarily interested in meeting the highways needs of Nigeria as quickly and as efficiently as I can. This is a time when the speed of economic development is making the most pressing demands on our road system, and is highlighting its deficiencies and weaknesses. With my programme of road construction it is my aim to meet the needs of economic development with determination and with foresight. There are certain roads and bridges which we want now, not in ten years time. For the first time in many years the Works Division of my Ministry—thanks to its recent reorganisation—is adequately staffed to supervise an imaginative plan of major road development. The funds immediately available may be limited and with all the other important demands on the public purse I would not wish to ask for more than my fair share of the kitty. But clearly it would be defeatist for me to sit back and do nothing, and within the bounds of financial prudence this Government will find ways and means of obtaining the finance for what is essential highway development. After all, contractor finance is only one of many ways of seeking finance on the world money market, and I can assure the House that my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, will see to it that the contractor finance system is used without endangering the stability of the national credit. (*Hear, hear.*)

I thank the hon. Dr Mbadiwe for his observations on this subject though he is not in the House now, and I agree with him wholeheartedly that it is for major projects such as the



Niger Bridge that contractor finance is particularly suited. In this category I am sure that everyone in this House will place the Ijebu-Ode-Benin road and improvements to the northern stretches of trunk road A. 1 Tegna to Kaduna and from Zaria to Kano and from Dambatta to Daura. Hon. Members will see, Mr Chairman, that by transposing these two projects from the purview of the economic programme to contractor finance arrangements, I have been able to meet the increased cost of other commitments within the economic programme and to embark on three new projects of great importance at the same time. These are, firstly, improvements to Port Harcourt Wharf at a cost of £212,000—a project which has been made vitally necessary by the discovery of oil; secondly, the reconstruction of the Ibadan-Ife road between milestone three and a half, and milestone twenty-three at a cost of £225,000; and thirdly, the reconstruction of the Palm Grove-Maryland road to provide, at a cost of £80,000, a suitably imposing entrance to Lagos in time for the independence celebrations next October.

It has not, I regret, been possible to make all the necessary changes to the Highways and Bridges programme without finding some savings. I have chosen for this purpose two road projects on which owing to climatic conditions and difficulties of terrain, the speed of work is slow. These are the Victoria-Bamenda road and the first phase of the Takun-Bissaula-Misaje road. In both cases I am satisfied that the provision that remains will be sufficient, so far as can be foreseen, to finance all the work that it is possible to carry out within the period of the existing economic programme. In respect of the Victoria-Bamenda road I can assure the hon. Member from Mamfe that in seeking savings from this sub-head I am only influenced by the practical considerations of how much money can be spent in the time available. I regret that any savings have to be quoted at all, but it would be folly to tie up money unnecessarily that can profitably be used on other and no less important projects.

Mr Chairman, the main points in the re-organisation of the highways and bridges programme are clearly defined in the printed memorandum on the Supplementary Estimates.

I have deliberately avoided wasting the time of the House by repeating what is therein contained, and have confined myself to enlarging on certain points on which I feel the House will be chiefly concerned. I have also refrained from commenting on the Niger Bridge because I hope to be in a position to make an important statement on this subject later in the meeting of this House. If there is any other point in the programme that requires further explanation I will be happy to provide it. But in the main, I hope that the House will welcome my re-organisation of the highways and bridges programme as a bold and imaginative attempt to absorb the impact of rising costs, and at the same time to meet the growing needs of the Federation within the bounds of financial prudence.

Now, Mr Chairman, before I sit down I want to answer my hon. Friend, Mr Nsima, very briefly. He spoke of bends in our roads and he also spoke of the narrowness of our roads. In doing that Sir, he tried to compare our roads with the super-highways of America and the *autobahn* of Western Germany but unfortunately he deliberately refused to tell the Members or to give them a comparison of the costs. These super-highways that he was talking about cost as much as £300,000 and more per mile. Here in Nigeria when we spend £7,000 per mile people cry that we are spending too much money. If we want a super-highway to replace our bent and narrow roads then we must wait until we have built up a very sound finance and when we can afford to spend at least £20,000 a mile.

**M. Nuhu Bamalli (Central Zaria):** Mr Chairman, I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Works, both on my own behalf and on behalf of the 98,000 people of Zaria for the excellent bridge he put up at Kubanni. I would also thank him for the Zaria-Kano road which he has just mentioned. It was started by the 1951-53 Government. But because the Minister at that time was an Action Group Minister the work was dropped for years, and there was nothing re-started until the present Minister took over. Now this road is ready, its bridges have been completed and it has cut the distance between Kano and Zaria by over 63 miles. But this international road, Sir, is still, as the Minister has just admitted, more or less a dry season road, and I implore the Minister to see to it that the work of tarrin



[M. NUHU BAMALLI]

is started, before the election. I am not afraid that the Minister might not come back, I know he is a sure horse, but who knows, perhaps in the next Government he may be charged with other responsibilities, and another Minister, although not an A.G. Minister this time, but one who might be uninterested in road development, might take over.

Mr Chairman, although the Minister has covered almost all the ground that I wanted to touch, yet it would not be out of place if I remind him about the deplorable condition of the road between Tegna and Kaduna. I hope the Minister will urge whoever is the contractor on that road to be up and doing, because the work is very slow, the road is very very bad in parts and very dangerous. The narrow bridges are still there and the pot-holes are a matter of great regret to car owners who are using that road. A case in point, Sir, is myself. I have a beautiful Cresta car, Mr Chairman, and on my coming here it was so badly damaged that I am confronted with a bill for £83 for the repair of the car!

**Mr U. O. Ndem** (Calabar): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have listened very carefully to the Minister when he was reading out the report of what he has done since our last meeting. He will remember that I raised the question of the Atimbo bridge during the Budget Session and he promised that he was going to do something about it and that an engineer was going to investigate the possibility of putting up that bridge. I should have thought that in giving this detailed report he would have made mention of the progress so far achieved about the Atimbo bridge, but I am surprised that the bridge has not been mentioned. Perhaps before we finish with this Head the Minister will be able to say something about the Atimbo bridge.

I also raised the question of the Calabar-Mamfe road. The Calabar-Mamfe road has been under construction for a considerable length of time, and the Minister, during the last meeting, told this House of the need for an inspector to inspect that road. Well, I do not know how far the work on that road has progressed, but I thought that the Minister, in giving us report this morning, should have included the Calabar-Mamfe road, so as to let this House know what further progress has been made.

Talking of Roads and Bridges generally, I have to add my quota of congratulations to the Minister for the considerable improvements now visible. I am sure that it will not be possible for everybody to be satisfied with every inch of road in this country, but as far as it is humanly possible and within the limits of our resources, we can say sincerely that the Minister has discharged his obligations to this country. But I think the picture will only be completed and rounded off efficiently if the Atimbo bridge is constructed without further delay.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to add my own contributions, especially on the announcement just made by the Minister that a bridge on the Lagos and Ibadan road will be constructed during the present fiscal year. Last year, Sir, I raised the question of this bridge, and I am happy to know that the Minister has not forgotten all about it. I am happy to know that the Minister has under consideration a proposal to reconstruct the road from 3½ miles from Ibadan to Ife. These are very important roads and we are grateful that the Minister has not wholly forgotten them. It does not benefit this Government at all, and I hope the Minister will do his best before independence to see that the road is completely tarred. No one country will be happy without roads, and communication means a lot to the life of a people. I know the Minister is working hard and I am just patting him on the back so that he will continue to work just as hard as he has been doing in order to satisfy the people of this country.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, when one looks at the development that is taking place in this country as regards the development of roads throughout the Federation of Nigeria one would not hesitate to congratulate the Minister of Works. But, Sir, we all are aware that roads are very important in any growing country, for there must be easy means of communication and easy access to the various nooks and corners throughout the Federation. We know that even in ancient civilisation, as I always say on the Floor of this hon. Legislature, an easy means of communication was the success of the civilisation in ancient Egypt, and Mesopotamia. So Sir, there must be roads throughout the country.



When people talk about roads those of us coming from the North, think of the roads that are in the Northern part of Nigeria and one might as well say that we have no roads at all. We have no roads in the North. We have no federal roads in the North, if I may put it that way. One of the most important Trunk A roads in the Northern part of Nigeria is the Kano-Eastern road. That Kano-Eastern road is very important indeed. This morning another Member from Kano complained that there is a bridge on that particular road that is in a very bad state and needs repairs very badly indeed. That is the road that links Kano with Maiduguri and goes on to Fort Lamy. It is an international road, if I may be allowed to say so. The bridge that has just been referred to by the hon. Member from Kano is a very important bridge and the Minister has explained that there will be no repairs effected on that particular bridge this year. The economy of the Northern part of Nigeria will be very severely affected if that particular bridge is not repaired in time. I am therefore urging and asking the Federal Minister of Works to do everything possible in order to see that repairs are effected on the particular bridge so that the economy of our country which has greatly been affected as a result of lack of good roads in the country may not be affected the more.

There is another road also which may be regarded as not economically important and that is the road that links Kano-Dambata and Daura. I agree that there is not so much commerce coming from that direction, but that road is politically important. That is the road that joins Northern Nigeria with the French Territory. I believe that even though we may say that it is not economically important the fact still remains that it is our hope in this country to try to unite the various West African countries, be they French or British, and in the long run we are hoping to have an association or perhaps a United States of Africa, and certainly roads are very important indeed. If we can build very good roads that link the French territories and the British territories it will pave the way for bringing together the people living in these two different territories. It is only by so doing that we can promote close relationships and understanding between these two territories. I am urging that this particular road, which may not be regarded as economical, should be repaired as soon as possible.

The Kano-Zaria road is another one. The Minister should be congratulated for the work he has done on that particular road because that is the road that shortens the distance between Lagos and Kano by about 70 miles. It is extremely important, and unless we tar that road the whole purpose of shortening the distance between Kano and Lagos will be defeated, and I am asking that the necessary repairs that that road needs and tarring should be commenced without any further delay.

I now come to that horrible roundabout in Kano; that horrible roundabout in Kano, about which we have spoken several times, is something that I would like the Minister to think twice about. On the Floor of this House we have said several times and I think every Member that comes from Kano has spoken about it once or twice, and in my own case I have said it not less than five times that there should be a gate there. We ask for a gate; we did not ask for a roundabout. Now there is one huge roundabout there—a huge roundabout. If you are turning the roundabout you do not know whether to concentrate your attention on your wheels or to look straight in front of you to see whether there is a train coming on the line. You do not know which is which and the result is that that roundabout is even worse than the condition of the road was when there was no roundabout. We want a gate. I do not think it will be difficult to have. Some have already had some bad experiences there. It is not solving the problem at all and that particular railway crossing about which we have been speaking is on the main road from Kano-Eastern road which goes to Maiduguri. No less than 100 to 200 cars sometimes ply over that road every day and there is no reason whatsoever why that particular place should be left like that.

I ask the Minister, hardworking as he has always been, to do something about that road so that the lives of the people plying on that particular road may be safe. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Works once again for the excellent work that he has done and for the excellent services he has rendered to this country. Thank you Mr Minister, thank you very much, and I hope you will do what I have asked you to do.

**Mr R. N. Takon (Ikom):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for this opportunity



MR TAKON]

you have given me to express myself. In the first place I join everybody in thanking the Minister for the work he has so far done for the Federation. When we talk of roads it is not a playful business. When we talk of industries and economy, without good roads we cannot get the country to carry out its industries properly because crops from the different divisions cannot be transported to the ports.

Now going back to the construction of roads I would advise the Minister of Works and Surveys not to entrust the construction of Trunk A Roads or tarring of the roads to the Regional Public Works Department because they have their own development to do. They have to develop their own Regions. To entrust many works to the Regional Public Works Department means they will not pay more attention to any work handed over to them by the Federal Government. So it will be good if the Minister of Works and Surveys appoints people direct to do the work of the Federal Government. In this case direct labour should be appointed.

The Governor-General visited the Eastern Region last March and everybody in my area (Ikom) was very anxious to see him for the first time since he took over the duties of Governor-General of the Federation. But he was unable to come. Although I cannot read his mind, yet I feel that the reason was because of the bad roads in my area. Some of us who visit Lagos very frequently—in fact for the short time since 1955 I have bought three cars because of bad roads—can testify to the bad condition of the road. In fact each time I come to Lagos I spend something in the neighbourhood of £60 to £70 for the repairs of my car. If I tour my constituency for say one month I must take that car to Enugu which will cost me about £20 to £30 to repair.

We will thank the Minister of Works and Surveys if he concentrates on that area. There is not a single road there constructed by the Regional Government and the only road which leads from Ikom to the Southern Cameroons, which may be regarded as an international road, should be tarred. I have asked for this several times and I hope he will make up his mind this time and take positive action.

Sir, with these few remarks I support.

**Mr C. C. E. Onoh (Udi)** : Mr Chairman, Sir, any honest critic of the Minister of Works and Surveys will pause for a minute and reflect on the legacy handed over to him by the previous Government. While being proud, Mr Chairman, that the British have handed us the tradition of democracy, they have not handed to us that type of road built by the Romans. Taking into consideration the nature of our roads, they are not straight at all. We can appreciate the fact they are not well tarred because we have no money. But everybody definitely knows that the roads need reconstruction. Make them straight to avoid accidents. Mr Chairman, Sir, accidents do not discriminate. Reading through the papers this morning one finds that the Commissioner of Abakaliki whilst travelling on tour, a bridge collapsed; one of the bridges along the road.

**An hon. Member** : That is a Regional road.

**Mr Onoh** : I know that it is a Regional road but it is an illustration of the type of bridges built in this country. You will find that the bridges are narrow and the bends just following. You might be careful but there might be another careless driver coming. In fact taking the gateway to the West, Ikorodu Road, it is quite lovely we appreciate the work done by the Minister, but what about the gateway to the East—that Onitsha-Enugu Road? Take the Miliken Hill it is a danger trap. We know it is dangerous but it is essential and we should spend some money to widen it if possible. If we can widen it it will minimise accidents. Recently we have had over twenty accidents on that corner and it is just a mile long.

Apart from the fact that the road is not wide enough, miles 30 to 45 on Enugu road needs reconstruction. It is uneven and we are victims of all these bad roads. Myself, coming from Enugu to this place I have been billed £43.

**An hon. Member** : £43 only.

**Mr Onoh** : It is not only to me, it may be only to you, and if there is anybody who stands to gain it is one department, *i.e.*, those that sell the motor parts. At each time we come to Lagos and take a car to the garage you are asked : "Can you tell me any other hon. Member in town?" This is just because they know our roads are bad. Again we have the Nsukka Road and we have been crying and crying and telling the Minister that it needs urgent reconstruction. We say it needs urgent reconstruction.



**An hon. Member :** Which road is that.

**Mr Onoh :** The Nsukka-Oturkpo Road. Whilst talking about this we have roads that pass across the railway. Some people go to work in the morning and just about ten minutes to eight the man at the gate closes the gate and they wait there for minutes and minutes—in fact for more than half an hour and when they get to the office the big man, assuming that he is first to arrive, he does not listen to your explanation. He will not agree that it is Railway and the Minister in charge of Works that kept him there. In this respect I am talking about the railway crossing along Ogui Road and Zik Avenue going towards Enugu-Port Harcourt Road. Is it not possible for the Minister to give us money, say about twenty to forty thousand pounds to build an overhead bridge along this place? And if there is no overhead bridge is it not possible to try an underground highway?

With these remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande) :** In October 1960 all roads will lead to the capital territory of Lagos. In other words contingents from the Regions will be going to Lagos for the celebration of independence. For that reason I am suggesting that all roads that connect Lagos with Regional towns should be tarred. In connection with this the road from Ilorin to Kaduna should be tarred and I am suggesting that the section from Ilorin to Bida to Abuja should be tarred. If it is not a Trunk A Road I suggest that Government should take it up.

I now come to Enugu-Lagos Road. The Enugu-Lagos Road is already tarred, but I am suggesting that the Ijebu-Benin Bye-Pass Road should be constructed before independence. It is more economical to travel from Enugu to Benin to Ijebu and then to Lagos rather than to go *via* Ilesha, Akure, Ile-Ife to Ibadan and so on. I do not know the towns through which the road from Lagos to Buea goes but Members from the Cameroons ought to know and I am suggesting that if it is not a Trunk A Road Government should take it over before independence day. There is no use, Mr Chairman, that when the contingents come from the Regions to take part in the celebration of independence we should rush them into hospital because of the bad conditions of the

roads. So if these roads are bad, the contingents will be unable to come. It is most important and urgent, I think, that they will take note of it. Already the Minister of Works and Surveys is very imaginative, and I think he will take it up and see that we come to Lagos with maximum comfort and maximum joy.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support.

**Mr P. O. Eleke (Okigwi) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting this Amendment I wish to make certain remarks.

The first point I want to raise is the question of contract awards in connection with Federal roads and bridges. Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel that the indigenous African contractors do not get their due share of contract awards. These African contractors have the necessary qualifications to enable them to be placed on a high grade, but they are always placed on the lower rung of the ladder. This in effect means that they cannot do any contract work over £100,000. This is very bad. I therefore call on the Minister of Works and Surveys to see to it that the indigenous Contractors are well placed and helped. The whole policy should be reviewed to enable African contractors to be well accommodated when Federal Government contracts are awarded.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I listened very carefully when the Minister of Works and Surveys was giving an account of the activities of the Ministry. I did not hear anything about the bridges along the Trunk Road A which runs from Aba to Umuahia to Okigwi to Oji River. The road itself has been well tarred but the bridges are in a very deplorable condition. They constitute a danger to the members of the public, they are death traps to our lives. I want to know what the Minister is proposing to do about them.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

**Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to ask the Minister of Works and Surveys to consider the construction of a short-cut road from Owo to meet the Lagos-Benin Road. The construction would shorten the distance, a great deal, from Owo to Lagos and, at the same time, it will help people coming from the Northern Region, particularly from the Middle Belt area, from Lokoja, Kabba and Ikarre to Owo, and from Owo they will come on this Lagos-Benin Road. It will be something that will help the economic



[MR AJASIN]  
development of the country. So, Mr Chairman, I am asking the Minister to consider the question of constructing the short-cut road.

The next thing I would like the Minister to consider, Mr Chairman, is the tarring of the whole width of the Trunk A Roads passing through all the towns in the country. At present we have just narrow places for vehicles to pass. I would like to say that the whole breadth of these roads should be tarred right up to the edge of both sides of the roads passing through the towns. What happens at present is that when you have two cars, one passing the other, these cars cause a lot of dust and they throw up the dust on to the wares of people who have their shops near the roads. It will be a good thing if this can be considered: the extension of the tarring of both sides of these roads right up to the edge.

Mr Chairman, somebody, I think Mr Onoh, has mentioned the question of Milliken Hill in the Eastern Region. I have been told that it is possible to cut a road right across the middle of the Hill rather than the edge. I think that this is something on which engineers or experts can be consulted. If there is a road right through the middle of the Hill then the two sides will be high up and the question of falling off from one side will not arise. At present, this road is very dangerous. I think the Minister should consult some expert engineers about the possibility of having a road right across the middle of the Hill.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr J. Mboyam (Nkambe):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to thank the Minister of Works and Surveys for what his Ministry has done so far on the Federal Roads in the Southern Cameroons. The Mamfe-Ikom and Mamfe-Bamenda Roads are no longer closed to traffic during the rainy season; they are greatly improved. But the only thing is that they are lacking in road signs. The point I want to make here is that I regret that the construction of the Takum-Bissaula-Kamine Road will be transferred from Nkambe side to the Bissaula side. The people of Nkambe will be badly disappointed; as they are anxious to work on this road.

Another cause of regret Mr Chairman, is the reduction of the sum of £400,000 from the Financial Provision for the Takum-Bissaula, and Victoria-Bamenda Roads.

These two roads are the trade and economic lifelines of the Southern Cameroons. No one can blame the Federal Government for taking this action, the reason for doing so is well known to us. Here, the Southern Cameroons Government must now step in to replace this amount so that there will be no delay in widening and tarring the Victoria-Bamenda Road.

It is not sufficient for Mr Foncha to fill the air of the Southern Cameroons with contradictory statements. That is not what the Southern Cameroons people want. They want road development and if the Federal Government stops financing this project, Mr Foncha must take up the work at once.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want briefly to reply to some of the points raised by hon. Members. My friend, Mallam Nuhu Bamalli started by talking about the road from Tegna to Kaduna. If the hon. Member listened carefully when I was speaking earlier on, I stated that this is one of the roads which we intend to reconstruct and surface by contractor finance.

Mr Ndem spoke about his favourite Atimbo Bridge. But what we are now doing, Sir, is a survey which has virtually been completed of an alternative road to Atimbo, instead of going all the way from Aba to Oron and then across to Calabar and so on. We are trying to reach agreement with the Eastern Regional Government to find an alternative road which will be even more direct to Calabar and then to Mamfe.

Mr Adeyinka, Sir, I must thank him very much for his compliment. I am sorry he is not here.

Mallam Maitama Sule has spoken about the bridge on mile 37 east of Kano, which is locally known as the "Janna Bridge". If he had listened carefully, I mentioned a Bridge at mile 37½. I am sorry I did not say "Janna Bridge". This is the bridge we are improving by re-aligning the approaches. My friends from the North know this bridge very well. It is not the bridge which is faulty but the approaches to it. He then spoke about the level crossing at Nasarawa. We have put a roundabout near this level crossing purposely to slow down traffic. Hitherto the main trouble has been that motorists and lorry drivers pass across the level crossing at high speeds and most of the accidents were caused by them.



The round-about is to slow down traffic. My friend will agree that if we put a gate it will slow down traffic very much. The gate-man will close the gate once he is told by the Station Master that a train is approaching, however far off the train is. But if there is a round-about, a motorist or a lorry driver coming will slow down, look on either side to make sure there is no train coming before he proceeds.

My friend Mr Takon wants us to do something which unfortunately we cannot do, that is to appoint Federal Officers and Federal engineers in all parts of the Federation to supervise and undertake Federal projects. The whole system and arrangement has been for the Federal Government to use the Regional Governments on an agency basis. The Regions are our agents and wherever possible I want to assure Mr Takon that we second or we post Federal engineers to work directly under Regional officers to supervise our Federal Works.

Mr Abaagu spoke about the very highly ambitious business of bituminous surfacing and reconstructing all roads leading from Lagos right through Regional headquarters, etc. I wish I could do this, only provide the money.

Then there is Mr Eleke, who wants to know if the bridges between Oji River and Umuahia are going to be improved. I am glad to inform him that this is within our programme and we are going on with it.

Mr Ajasin has again spoken about the Ijebu-Ode road. I am afraid that he did not listen to what I said before.

Lastly, I want to thank Mr Mboyan. It is very pleasing to hear responsible voices of the Southern Cameroons appreciating the good work that the Federal Government has done in that territory. I want to assure him that although the work on the Takum-Bassaula-Kamine road has now shifted to the northern end of the road, that is because we felt it would be easier to carry on the work from there at this particular time because that part is drier than the southern part. But as soon as the position in the Southern Cameroons is clear and we know exactly where we are, we are going to resume work there.

*Sitting suspended : 10.35 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 10.50 a.m.*

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** (South Ilorin): Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on the Head I want to remind the Minister of Works and Surveys about the following bridges on the Trunk A 13 Ilorin-Kabba road with a view to putting them under modern and strong construction. The first one I want the Minister to note is the Osin bridge near Ajasse between miles 25 and 26 on the road. The second one is the Orissa bridge on mile 48 near Omu-Aran on the same road. The third one is the bridge on the Oro river on mile 59 near Osi; others are Aye, and the Ofor bridges between Osi and Egbe on the same road. All the above mentioned bridges are all death traps to the Ilorin and Kabba people who use the road. The number of road engineers in charge of this particular road should be doubled. There is no doubt about the ability and sense of duty that is found in the Minister of Works, but to my great disappointment he did not make any mention whatever about the development that is proposed on this very road. Please do more on this road for the Ilorin and Kabba people.

This particular road is the only road that links Ilorin and Kabba Provinces together. It should be properly looked after. The dangerous corners and the most dangerous slopy hills between miles 46 and 48 should be re-surveyed and reconstructed to save the lives of the people using the road. Good roads in Nigeria mean a lot to traders and businessmen of this country and an increase in the country's revenue is assured from transporters and businessmen. The number of motor accidents will be greatly reduced if roads are in a better condition. The Federal Government should take over more roads from the Regional Governments, more especially in the Northern Region where there are several Trunk B roads.

Mr Chairman we do hope that the second bridge for Lagos Island, the Federal Capital territory of Nigeria will be soon available. With this, Sir, I support the amendment.

**Mr H. O. Chuku** (Bende): Mr Chairman, Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Works for the work that is being carried out on the road between Oji River, Umuahia and Aba. My hon. Friend, Mr Alege, has complained about the deplorable condition of the Bridges on this road. I do



[MR CHUKU]

appreciate that the contractors in charge of this road are doing excellently well and the road has been properly widened and trees along the sides of the road have all been cut down and removed. But, Sir, the last speaker mentioned the necessity of the Federal Government taking over some of the roads from the Regional Governments. There is one of these roads that is very very important and that is the Regional road from Umuahia through Uzuakoli, Alayi and Abriba to Arochuku. This road, Sir, could be linked with the Calabar and Mamfe road.

At the moment, Sir, I think the Minister will be interested to note that this road has also somehow benefited the Federal Government. At the moment the Government has posted some of the Customs Preventive Service along that road to stop smuggled goods from passing through that road. Apart from that, Sir, the Shell-BP is working very hard in that area to look for oil, which all of us know is one of the economic live-wires of this country. Furthermore, Sir, this road connects so many things : a road from Umuahia to Arochuku, and if the Federal Government will be kind enough to take over this road, it will be a relief to the Regional Government who have already done quite a lot to improve it.

Apart from that, Sir, the existing bridges are really a death trap to motor owners. Quite recently there have been a series of accidents on that road and it would be quite appreciated by the people living in that area if they could pass through that road during the independence celebrations to come to the Federal Territory to witness the celebrations.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Minister, who is a hard working Minister and broad-minded, will do all that lies in his power to make sure that the Federal Government takes over this road.

**M. Haruna W. Daji** (Dawia) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of the first explanation given by the Minister of Works and Surveys, I did not intend to speak on this Amendment or on the Head as a whole. But after the hon. M. Maitama Sule had mentioned the importance of the trunk road from Kano to Daura, its economic importance, I feel I must explain to him and to the House in particular.

First of all, Sir, the importance of this road is well-known, that it is an international road which links Nigeria with the French Niger

territory, and most of the Kano groundnut is transported by that road. But still the road is left under such a deplorable condition and is so dangerous to traffic. Mr Chairman, Sir, the road is so poor that it is the cause of many accidents and loss of public property. There is another trouble also during the rainy season, Sir. When the road is closed to traffic during heavy rains, the passengers have to stay there in the rain for several hours. Some of them, Sir, have their goods spoiled and even become sick.

I am not against the traffic Ordinance, Sir, but I feel it is a great disappointment to neglect such important sections under such deplorable conditions. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is for this reason that I have just brought up this matter to the House so as to remind the Minister to do all he can to improve the situation. That is what I wish to say, and I oppose the Amendment.

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the question be now put.

**The Chairman** : It is now two and three-quarter hours that we have been on this Head. I think I must accept that the question be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Amendment to reduce the Head by £10 put and negatived.*

*£1,086,890 for Head 602—Highways and Bridges—agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million and Eighty-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60, under Head 602—Highways and Bridges, be approved.

#### HEAD 603.—PUBLIC WORKS

##### EXTRAORDINARY

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million and Sixty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60 under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.



**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**The Chairman**: The Minister of Finance has an Amendment to move under sub-head 14, item (1). I think items (1) and (2) can be taken together.

**The Minister of Finance**: I have to signify the Governor-General's recommendations on the Motion.

I beg to move to include the following provisions—

Sub-head 14 item (1): Housing  
for Ministers and Parliamentary  
Secretaries .. .. . £165,000

Sub-head 14 item (2): Housing  
for Legislature .. .. . £250,000

and to say that I expect that Members will support this because the reasons are very obvious, but in view of the future Legislature we expect we shall need additional three houses for Ministers and four houses for Parliamentary Secretaries. I hope that Members will approve same.

*Question proposed.*

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola, Afolu II** (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, whilst I do not grudge Ministers or their Parliamentary Secretaries free Government residential quarters, I have hinted in this House, Sir, that it is a departure, a flagrant one at that, from modern principles of economic spending that Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries should be provided with quarters. It is not done in Great Britain and the United States of America. (*Interruption*). Many of us have not been there. I can agree that flats be built for Legislative Council Members because those of them who come from Provinces or from the Regions have no house of their own in Lagos. They can jolly well go to Ikoyi and live or even elsewhere in Apapa layout or in the new housing scheme area in Obele-Odan or somewhere at Government's benevolent expense. But when you saddle Government with providing quarters for Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries, it is too much.

In England, Sir, I understand that it is only the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer that are provided with quarters by the Government.

**Several hon. Members**: What of the Western Region?

**Oba Aiyeola**: In the Western Region, Sir, very near here in the Western Region some Ministers do live in their own homes. (*Interruption*). It is true, Sir, that they get inconvenience allowance, but this inconvenience allowance is so small compared with what the Government should have spent if Government had provided quarters for them. (*Interruption*). These present Ministers still get inconvenience allowance in spite of the fact that they live in Government quarters. (*Interruption*).

**The Chairman**: Order, order. This background noise; I cannot see who in particular is making it. We must keep quiet when one Member is talking. Oba Aiyeola.

**Oba Aiyeola**: I can understand, Sir, that there are some Ministers who have no hope of returning here and therefore they want to have their fill before they are given the boot. I warn that Ministers who do live in Government quarters; who are provided with soft cushioned furniture; who are provided even with horses; who are provided with cars; who are provided with all the amenities that they cannot even afford in their life; when they are given the boot, will suffer for it.

**M. Usman Angulu Ahmed** (Kwara): Mr Chairman, Sir, in speaking in support of the Expenditure under this Head, I find that it is obligatory for me to voice deplorable condition of the Nigeria Police. . . .

**The Chairman**: The hon. Gentleman is not talking on the Amendment at all.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande** (Egba North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am rather surprised to hear an Oba from the Western Region criticising the provision in the Estimates.

**An hon. Member**: You mean your natural father?

**Mr Akande**: I am not referring to him as a natural father but as a politician. If you want to keep your rightful place, tell the Obas in the Western Region to stop being the plaything of the Action Group. . . .

**The Chairman**: The hon. Gentleman was surprised. I am disappointed that he is. . . . (*Laughter*). He should keep to the Amendment and not talk about the Western Region.



**Mr Akande :** I think it is not proper for any Member of this Legislature here to attack a provision in the Estimates for housing for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The Oba got up to say that this is a waste on the part of the Government, but he realises himself that Ministers in the Western Region to-day live in Government quarters. The Premier of the Western Region, for living in his own house, is paid £800 a year extra. These houses built by the Federal Government belong to the State, and not to the Ministers.

It is a very good thing that the Ministers who are here make provision for Ministers to come. If it were the Action Group, they would not even make any provision for houses for future Ministers they would feel that they will not come back....

**The Chairman :** It is no use mentioning hypothesis and then saying what has happened. What we want is to discuss these two items moved by the Minister of Finance: housing for Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries. Just keep to that.

**Mr Akande :** I am happy, Sir, that the Government has made provision for these two important Heads. I only want to reply to certain criticisms of the Government made by a member of the Action Group.

**The Minister of Finance :** I just want to seize the opportunity to give some information to hon. Members about their own accommodation. And this time I should be talking to those who will come back and not to those who have voluntarily given up their seats to other people. (*Laughter.*)

Site designs of accommodation for hon. Members have been prepared, and it is now intended that 200 flats should be constructed in two blocks on the Victoria Island, and that each flat should be self-contained and include a sitting-room, a bedroom, toilet facilities, and a tea terrace. The ground floor will be devoted to garage space.

There was a balance of approximately £550,000 in the provision originally made for housing for Members of the Legislature. It was estimated that this sum would have been sufficient to have provided 288 flats of a design similar to the flats in Lugard Avenue.

After detailed investigation of the cost, it is intimated that the total cost of 200 flats of the design that I have just told you will be approximately £800,000. This amount includes the cost of special foundations prescribed for building in the newly reclaimed area of Victoria Island.

In order to enable this project to be put in hand immediately, I was authorised to issue Development Fund Warrant for the additional sum of £250,000 required to make up the cost of 200 new flats on Victoria Island. I am sure that Members on this Side and on that Side and others belonging to the two parties will enjoy those buildings. (*Loud applause.*)

*Amendments under sub-head 14 items (1) and (2) put and agreed to.*

*Amendment to sub-head 14 item (15)—Ijora Development: Land Reclamation—£60,000 proposed.*

**The Minister of Finance :** I am signifying the Governor-General's recommendation on this one as well.

I beg to move that sub-head 14 item (15)—Ijora Development: Land Reclamation—£60,000—be included in the provision.

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

**Mr U. O. Udem (Calabar) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, in speaking to this head I have requested that it be reduced by £100. I have particularly in mind certain items on this Head that come under Police, Sub-head 15, Item 5—*Buildings and Junior Staff Quarters, Eastern Region.* I brought to the notice of this House some time ago that in Calabar Division there is not a single police quarter for junior staff which has any likeness to the houses in Lagos, Port Harcourt or Enugu. I have in mind particularly the flats which one can find at Ibadan where policemen can live very comfortably in their homes with their families. In Calabar the police quarters we have there are the old type. You have a section, for example, that has a small, tiny room, and if a man has two rooms they are not connected. The result is that these officers live in very uncomfortable conditions, and I think it is sufficient for me to put it just like that. So I feel, Mr Chairman, that the time has come for a decent block of flats to be built in Calabar so that the police there in Calabar can enjoy



such housing facilities as are being enjoyed by policemen in other places. I want to ask the Minister if he will consider putting one of these new blocks of flats at Calabar.

The general impression given is that when this thing is left to the Eastern Government they will do their duty and allocate these blocks of flats to different areas, but that would be a very great mistake, because we know the type of Regional Government we have in that part of the country. I feel that there is a lot of impartiality going on in the Eastern Region, and one cannot entrust the future of public amenities to such Regional Governments. We suffer very much indeed, and unless the Federal Government make allocations themselves, where some of these flats are to be built, the Calabar Division will never have them, because just a few minutes ago here the Minister of Works surprised me by saying that certain roads would be constructed here and there. Well I am not going into that. What I particularly refer to is that the fate of my Division should not be left in the hands of the Eastern Regional Government. The Federal Government here should make it clear that such and such a type of building should be in such and such a place, and I am asking that one of the new Government blocks of flats for junior quarters be built in Calabar. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £100.*

**The Minister of Works and Surveys:** I just want to give an explanation to my hon. Friend, Mr Ndem, on the question of the junior staff quarters for the police. The allocation is decided by the Inspector-General of Police and not by the Regional Government. We in the Ministry of Works build the quarters decided by the Inspector-General of Police, and we build them where he wants us to build them. The allocation is not the responsibility of the Regional Government.

**M. Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to give a word of advice to the Government on Head 603, Sub-head 23, Item 9, and if accepted it will effect considerable economies to the Federal Government. This new Department of Antiquities which is preserving the past was formerly under the

Ministry of Works and Surveys, but for some reason that might be very strong it was suddenly transferred to the Ministry of Education. I suggest, if the Government really wants this young department to grow and become of age, for economical reasons that it should go back to its former master, the Ministry of Works and Surveys.

**Mr O. Bademosi (Ondo South):** I rise Mr Chairman to congratulate the Federal Government for the provision under this Head for the improvement of the *Iga Idunganran*. Whatever anybody may say the Federal Government has taken the right step to rebuild the stature of natural rulers. This will serve as a good lesson to the Action Group in the Western Region whose pre-occupation is the demolition and prostitution of our time-honoured chieftaincy institution. (*Hear, hear*). I hope Sir that the time will come when the welfare and well-being of all these high chieftaincy institutions will be in the safe custody of the Federal Government. With this, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I would just like to ask the Minister to give us an idea of how he intends to spend this £10,000 on improvements to the *Iga Idunganran*. When it comes, Sir, to spending money in order to preserve tradition I believe that Members of this House should be the watchdogs of the people. I just want an explanation from the Minister in what way he intends to spend this £10,000.

**M. Sanni Okin (North Ilorin):** I would like to speak, Sir, on Sub-head 14 Item 16—*Iga Idunganran*. Perhaps some Members may know the meaning of *Iga Idunganran*. It means a garden of fruits or pepper. In that respect I have to congratulate the Federal Government, particularly the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. who are respecters of tradition. (*Hear, hear*.) I have to appeal to the Ministry of Works and Surveys to see that the improvements are carried out and completed before October 1, 1960. The reason for that is that His Highness Adeniji Adele II, Oba of Lagos will be a host to many distinguished visitors who will come here to witness the independence celebrations and by so doing I have again and again to repeat that the Minister of Works should see that the improvements are carried out before October 1960.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh):** On a point of explanation,



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Mr Chairman, on the issue raised by my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode, I wish to refer him to the explanatory note in the Estimates Head 603—*Public Works Extraordinary Item 7*. I read it in his hearing. He has either been sleeping or preparing his case for Monday. He has only come here to waste our time:

“It is proposed to carry out improvements to the *Iga Idunganran*, the official residence of the Oba of Lagos. The improvements will include the provision of a better approach, new living quarters for the Oba and dignified reception rooms.”

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba):** In contributing to the debate, Mr Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the Minister to the appalling condition in which the Police men in Aba are housed. When we say “Building of Junior Staff Quarters Eastern Region,” the Government should extend it to Aba, but I do not know what is happening in the offices whether the arrangement is made here or at Enugu. I only want to call the attention of this House to the fact that any provision to build a house in this country is very, very important and that it is most appalling for a man living with his wife or wives and children to occupy one room. Some of these rooms are so poorly built that even some of them are not cemented, and I do not know the reason for that. Well, while some other members of the Civil Service are enjoying better housing facilities there is no reason why the Police men who are members of the community should also not enjoy very good housing accommodation.

What I am saying Sir is that the amount that has been provided here should be made available for the construction of Police quarters in Aba because we have a large number of policemen in Aba and there is no reason why they should not be given very good accommodation according to what is obtaining in other parts of the country. (*Hear, hear.*)

Another thing, Sir, is the military building accommodation that has been mentioned here. I would wish that military accommodation be provided not only at Enugu but in some other places in the Eastern Region.

**An hon. Member:** Uyo and Aba.

**Mr Ubani-Ukoma:** I remember that at one time at Calabar there was a depot and one at

Okigwi, but after the thirties they folded up and I want to know the reason why we should not have a second one at Aba so far as the land is available. We should like to see military detachments being established there and part of this money should be used as a token figure to start one. You should not just put them at Enugu, that is not enough. We want soldiers at Aba where they will be able to do their work and influence many people and school children so that they might be able to work in the most efficient manner.

Talking about senior staff housing quarters, I want to say that if this provision is not sufficient for the erection of buildings, Government should please adopt the policy of paying rents to house owners.

**An hon. Member:** You are one of them, you are a landlord.

**Mr Ubani-Ukoma:** I am just trying to urge the Government to get sufficient money to build houses. There is no reason why some houses should be lying vacant in some townships of this Federation. They should make money available to rent houses; that has been the policy in different parts of this Federation and there is no reason why there should be an exception to this.

**Mr Akwivu** 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 £100, put accordingly and negatived.*

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million and Sixty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60, under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

#### HEAD 604.—CAPITAL : POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

*Motion made, and Question proposed,* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of £75,000 for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60 under Head 604—Capital : Posts and Telegraphs be approved: (*The Minister of Finance.*)



Amendment proposed to include the following provisions (Governor-General's Recommendation signified) (*The Minister of Finance*)—

“Sub-head 26 Item (1) Train Control Circuit: Kaduna-Makurdi . . . . . £55,000.”

*Question proposed.*

**M. Abdullahi Magajin Musawa** (Katsina West Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to call the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to one point. I want him to tell me the reason why Kankia in Katsina Province has not been connected by telephone. Since the appointment of this Minister, Sir, the Ministry has been contaminated and the programmes have been contaminated. Sir, we the people of the Northern Region. . . . .

**The Chairman**: Order. I am afraid the hon. Member is not speaking strictly to the amendment which only refers to the Train Control Circuit, Kaduna-Makurdi.

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

**Mr H. O. Akpan Udo** (Ikot Ekpene): Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name, That sub-head 27 be reduced by £10 and in doing so to bring to the notice of the Minister of Communications and Aviation my appreciation of this provision. For a certain number of years now Members of this House have expressed the desire for extension of telephone facilities to people in the rural areas and I hope this provision will make up for the demand.

I must point out, Mr Chairman, that inside exchange area in Ikot Ekpene the exchange has been left in the old building whilst the new post office has been opened and people using the public call box have to travel a quarter of a mile after paying for their calls to speak to people. I think this is very unfair to the people of Ikot Ekpene. I am therefore calling on the Minister to make very early arrangements to transfer the Ikot Ekpene exchange from the old post office to the new one as soon as practicable. He should also make available to the people from the rural district councils area information as to the cost of installation of these trunk lines so that they can proceed straight away to prepare for the scheme as covered by this Sub-head.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed that sub-head 27 be reduced by £10.*

**Mr S. F. Nwika** (Ogoni): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the amendment and in doing so I want to call attention of the Minister to the fact that it would appear that the arrangement is of advantage to only people in areas where there is already existing telephone service and I want to say that there are a number of prospective subscribers in my constituency who would like to take advantage of this arrangement but there is no telephone facility. I wonder if he would arrange to get us one as soon as possible.

Secondly, I want to ask what the normal route distance is?

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla** (Abuja): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise in support of this amendment. I am pleased to take the opportunity, on behalf of my people, to thank the Federal Government, the Council of Ministers in general and in particular the Minister of Communications and Aviation, for the installation of telecommunication.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief S. L. Akintola): I need it very badly.

**Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla**: This was installed only two months ago between Minna and Abuja.

Now to come to the real field of support I should like the Minister of Communications and Aviation to use his good offices to see to it that telephone users get in return adequate results. In this connection we ask that there should be the extension of office hours of telephone operators as from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. To achieve this we would like the Minister to increase the number of telephone operators in Abuja from one to three or more so as to cater for the need of our people properly.

Secondly, Sir, I should also ask the Minister of Communications and Aviation to see to it that telephone facilities are extended to Lapai so that the people are not cut off from the rest of the world.

*And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman proceeded pursuant to Order (11th August), to put forthwith the Question already proposed from the Chair and the further Question necessary to dispose of the Resolution under consideration.*



*Question, That sub-head 27 be reduced by £10, put and negatived.*

*Main question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of Seventy-Five Thousand Pounds for the purpose set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60 under Head 604—Capital: Posts and Telegraphs, be approved.

#### HEAD 605.—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Question proposed, That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure 1959-60, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

Amendment made by including the following provision. [Governor-General's *Recommendation* signified]—*The Minister of Finance* :—

“Sub-head 10, Item (7)—Independence Square :—

Revised Estimated Expenditure	Revised Estimate	Balance to complete
1955-62	1959-60	
£900,000	£10	£899,990”

Another Amendment made by including the following provision [Governor-General's *Recommendation* signified]—*The Minister of Finance* :—

“Sub-head 16 item (2) New Nigerian Coins : Minting .. .. £513,500.”

Another Amendment made by including the following provision [Governor-General's *Recommendation* signified]—*The Minister of Finance* :—

“Sub-head 40 Commission on Post-School Certificate and Higher Education .. .. £18,770”

*Resolved,* That the expenditure from the Development Fund of One Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy Pounds for the purposes set out in the draft First Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1959-60, under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

*Then the Chairman left the Chair to report the Resolutions to the House.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Resolutions reported.*

*Resolved,* That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions :—(The Minister of Finance).

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn.* (The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (South West Kano) : Mr Speaker, I rise to raise a very important matter and I crave the indulgence of the Chair to read my statement.

Sir, in May this year I received a petition from Northern Nigeria Students of Railway Administration in the United Kingdom. The petition was addressed to the Minister of Transport and copies were sent to the Secretary, Northern Region Scholarship Board, the Premier of Northern Nigeria and myself.

In that petition they stated that they received a report from their predecessors who, on their return to Nigeria, after successfully completing a fifteen months course in the United Kingdom, were told to resume their normal duties and they were denied any form of recognition and the students were afraid the same thing might happen to them when they came home. They also complained that more expatriates with no better qualifications were employed by the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Another complaint was that they thought that the co-ordination of the whole Railway system from just one point, that is Lagos, is not in the best interests of the Corporation and the idea is wrong. They suggested that the same system obtaining in the British Railways should be adopted. The British Railway is divided into six regions, each directly responsible to the British Railway Commission which is in turn responsible to the British Minister of Transport. On the receipt of this petition I unhesitatingly wrote to the Minister appealing to him to look into this matter sympathetically. After a few days I received a reply from the Minister telling me that the points raised in the petition were being investigated and a further reply would be sent to me in due course.



Up till now I have got no reply from the Minister and very recently I received another letter from these students saying that they received a direct reply from the General Manager of the Railway Corporation and that they were in no way satisfied with the reply.

Mr Speaker, Sir, although educational qualifications vary, nonetheless these students undergo the same training with their Southern counterparts, with Europeans and with everybody, and it is therefore most regrettable that these students, after successfully completing the course in England, are told to resume their normal duties or to resume as Guards or Train Ticket Collectors. After all the Northern Regional Government has adopted this system of sending students to England with the sole object of assisting the Northerners to secure responsible positions in the Railways.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure the Minister will make a statement on this issue.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, Sir, at the last meeting of this House some hon. Members raised this same point and I promised to make a statement on the subject. I have fully investigated the matter and also the various points on this subject previously received from the employees through the Nigerian Technical Staff Union. The facts are as follows.

In 1953, the Nigerian Railway, then a Government undertaking, inaugurated a training scheme known as Vocational Training with the primary object of giving the craftsmen further practical training overseas in big establishments lasting from six to twenty-four months according to the nature of the training in the particular trade. The form of training is merely to improve the skill of the trainee and it is not designed to qualify him for automatic promotion after training. At the end of his training therefore the candidate returns to duty on his substantive grade and is considered for promotion along with others in the normal way. There is no doubt that his training enhances his prospect of promotion and to further improve his chance of promotion he is given the privilege on his return to Nigeria of being presented to a Promotion Selection Board for consideration out of his turn on the seniority list of his grade. If he satisfies the Board he is either promoted to fill an existing vacancy or placed on a job panel to cover a future vacancy.

It should be mentioned that there are two other types of training in the United Kingdom. I am not going to bother you with that.

The number trained in the United Kingdom within the last five years—I have already given a reply to a Written Question which was asked by the hon. Mr Abii. The Railway servants who were sent overseas for vocational training have complained that since they returned from the United Kingdom many of them have not been promoted at all or have been given inadequate promotion. They claim that they ought to receive automatic promotion on their return. As I have explained before, the type of training they receive does not qualify them for immediate promotion. I understand however that thirty-one of the men who received the training have so far been promoted. Twenty-two have passed the Selection Board interview and are awaiting vacancies and seven have failed.

The question whether these men should be given automatic promotion has been the subject of negotiation since 1956. It did not start yesterday between the Railway Management and the Railway Technical Staff Association. They failed to reach agreement on the matter and finally decided to submit it to arbitration. Professor Barback of the University College Ibadan was appointed as the sole Arbitrator in the claim and other matters submitted to him. The actual claim which the Arbitrator considered was as follows. Advancement of the United Kingdom trained men to the grades noted below on their return from Great Britain after successfully completing their training irrespective of the existence of a vacancy.

(a) U.K. trained craftsmen should be advanced to Chargemen.

(b) U.K. trained chargemen to be advanced to Assistant Foremen.

(c) U.K. trained Assistant Foremen to be advanced to Foremen

Professor Barback reached the conclusion that it is wrong in principle to set out the offer of automatic promotion on the sole ground of successful completion of a course of training or on the gaining so some particular qualification; that it is unreasonable to expect employers to offer automatic promotion and that it is wrong in general principle to make promotion in an industrial undertaking without vacancies.



[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]

Now, Sir, these issues are very closely linked with the policy of Nigerianisation in the Railway Corporation. As the Minister answerable to this House for the Nigerian Railway Corporation, I am very much concerned to ensure that the Corporation gives effect to the Government policy of Nigerianisation. (*Hear, hear*). I am aware of the facilities which the Corporation has provided for training Nigerians so as to enhance their suitability for promotion and Members will feel confident that I am taking very keen interest in the matter to see that the Railway is pursuing this policy. I have impressed on the Nigerian Railway Management to give these U.K. trained men every possible encouragement and opportunity for advancement and that on no account should

an expatriate be recruited when qualified and capable Nigerians are available. (*Hear, hear*). In this connection the Corporation has given me the assurance that promotion of these trained men is not inhibited by the recruitment of expatriate staff because no advertisements for such staff are made unless and until the Corporation is satisfied that no suitable Nigerian is available for the particular post and local sources have been exhausted. It has to be certified by the General Manager and the Chairman that this is the case before any recruitment is made.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved, That this House do now adjourn*

*Adjourned accordingly at 12 o'clock noon.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Saturday, 15th August, 1959

The House met at 9 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## PAPERS

**Mr Speaker** : Order, order. The following paper which has been published in the Supplement to the *Official Gazette* No. 50 of 13th August, 1959, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, is deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions)  
(No. 4) Order, 1959.

(Legal Notice No. 176 of 1959).

## NOTICE OF MOTION

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the following Motion, That this House notes with satisfaction the achievements of the Federal Government in preparing Nigeria for Independence. Sir, I do not intend to give you a detailed account of all the progress achieved during the life of the present House but I want to concentrate on those aspects of our policy which either have directly affected the advancement to Independence or have been adopted with the particular intention of enabling Nigeria to play a full part as an independent nation right from the very start.

First let me mention our own achievements. This House has written a chapter of Nigeria's history which will never be forgotten. (*Applause*). The chapter is entitled, "The winning of Independence". It may be said that independence is still fourteen months distant, but I regard it as virtually won already, and I think that we in this House may rightly claim to have played a large part in this achievement. (*Applause*). We have indeed formally debated the subject, but it was not that to which I was referring. For the past five years the eyes of the world have been on this House and we have been watched closely as we conducted our business. I think that we have every justification in saying that we have proved ourselves to be mature and to be capable of

managing our own affairs. (*Applause*). In fact, I would say that we have set an example to the House which will come next, an example of which I for one am proud. (*Loud applause*).

To return for a minute to the debate on independence which took place during the Budget Meeting of 1957 just before delegates left for the Constitutional Conference, you will all remember the speeches made in this House. It was a memorable occasion when our unmistakable sentiments were voiced with a moderation which emphasised Nigeria's desire to become an independent nation. We knew the immensity of the task before us and we were, and still are, in no doubt of the heavy responsibilities we shall assume when we leave the sheltered position of a dependent territory. But the unanimity with which the whole House approached this subject showed that, in the seven years which intervened between that debate and the General Conference on the Review of the Constitution held at Ibadan at the beginning of 1950, our unanimity as I say, showed that there had been a remarkable degree of evening up in the constitutional development in the different parts of Nigeria. Much of the jealousy, envy, prejudice and such like things which made it difficult to work together at the beginning of representative Government in Nigeria had disappeared. Energies which had been directed towards confusion were being devoted towards construction and the good of Nigeria had become the aim of this honourable House. We had shown to the world that we had successfully reached the stage where, having been given power, we were able to hold it responsibly. The great political experiment had not failed, and by the grace of God, it will not fail. (*Applause*.)

I call it the great political experiment and I do so with good reason because this is not a small country where a political mistake could easily be put right. To embark upon representative government for a country of over thirty million people was a bold step, and perhaps it was the greatest political experiment in this century.

In other countries the form of government has indeed been changed, but where else, I ask you, has it been done with the agreement of all concerned? In most cases you will find



[THE PRIME MINISTER]  
that a minority forced their will on their country, and that bloody revolution has left its legacy of bitterness.

Here is our greatest achievement: what we have done, we have done willingly. Compromise has been substituted for force. Power has not been seized, it has been transferred. Every group in Nigeria has sacrificed something and has given way in order to reach unanimous agreement, with the result that there is to-day a united country planning its independence in peace and friendship. (*Hear, hear*).

Looking back over all the business which has been transacted by this House, I am conscious of a very definite pattern as we have gradually assumed responsibility for our own affairs and the responsibility with which the elected representatives of the people have been charged has become a reality. That pattern is typified by one of the Bills before the House at our present meeting, a Bill which removed the need to obtain the permission of the Secretary of State for a certain course of action.

Here I should like to pay a tribute to the help which we in Nigeria have received from Mr Lennox-Boyd. You will remember him speaking on the Floor of this House in January 1955, and some of us have seen him at the two Constitutional Conferences, and everyone will agree that he has always been more than ready to assist us to achieve our national aspirations. I am sure that we in Nigeria shall never forget him.

In our advance to independence it has been the constant preoccupation of the Federal Government to preserve the unity and strength of the country, especially the economic strength. That is why so many of the measures considered by this House deal in one way or another with the economic development of Nigeria.

Our financial resources may be limited but we have tried to ensure that we make the best possible use of the money which we have, and I think that we may rightly claim to have met with success and to have established ourselves as a credit-worthy country. (*Hear, hear*). Last year we negotiated a loan with the International Bank for ten million pounds and this year, last month, in point of fact, we negotiated for a further loan of fifteen million pounds.

Now I am sure that we should not have been able to negotiate these loans if it had not been apparent that our policies were sound. We have paid particular attention to the need for co-ordinating development throughout Nigeria, and in this respect I shall mention two bodies which the Federal Government set up in conjunction with the Regional Governments. The first is the National Economic Council which was established in 1955 with the aim of providing machinery for inter-governmental consultation on the many economic problems common to the Federal and Regional Governments. The National Economic Council—provides a permanent basis for such consultations without encroaching on the authority entrusted to the respective Governments under the constitution. It is indeed designed to give the maximum encouragement to the development of a national economy and to foster co-operation between all the Governments in Nigeria in the field of economic development. The success which has so far attended the deliberations of this Council has contributed most effectively to Nigeria's reputation as a credit-worthy country.

The second body I would mention here is the Loans Advisory Council which is again an inter-governmental organisation established for the purposes of reviewing the amount of loan finance required to finance the development programmes of all the governments up to the 31st of March, 1962, and after examining the prospects of obtaining the money required its task is to estimate the amount to be borrowed and to recommend whether it should be raised by an internal or an external loan, and finally it recommends in what proportions the loans should be shared among the various governments.

Only eighteen months ago this House passed the legislation to set up the Central Bank of Nigeria. This Central Bank, which is an integral part of our programme for independence, was opened last month and you now have tangible evidence of it in the new currency in circulation. (*Hear, hear*).

But the role of the Central Bank is not confined to the issue of currency: it has already entered on its other tasks, the most important of which is to promote a sound financial structure in Nigeria and to act as financial adviser to the Federal Government. I am glad to say that the



Governor of our Central Bank was present in London to offer advice throughout the recent negotiations for the fifteen-million pounds loan.

He is also giving the benefit of his professional skill and experience to the Joint Planning Committee of the National Economic Council. I am sure that we are all very grateful to the Bank of England for making it possible for the present Governor of the Central Bank to launch this most important project.

And now I want to say something about what we have done to ensure that after independence Nigeria exercises an influence in international affairs commensurate with her importance. One of the first tasks which the Government set itself was to recruit and train staff for the diplomatic posts which an independent Nigeria must establish overseas. The Nigeria Office in London was established some time before the election of this House but it was this House which voted the funds for expanding it and for setting up additional offices in Washington and Khartoum.

All three offices, London, Washington and Khartoum, are now busy looking after the interests of Nigerians as well as training new entrants into the foreign service. (*Hear, hear*).

At the same time the External Affairs Division in my office has now been established as a self-contained unit which may, without further reorganisation, be transformed into a Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October next year (*Hear, hear*). In addition the Nigeria Office in Ghana will be opened in Accra in two months time and next month an office will be established in New York. This will in course of time be the Headquarters of our delegation to the United Nations, as well as dealing with questions of trade, economics and dissemination of information about Nigeria. Looking back over the past four years I am really encouraged at the progress we have been able to make, and what is most important is that the progress has been steady. The staff has been chosen with great care and in their various attachments to embassies in foreign countries they have won golden opinions.

This is very important because it means that when Nigeria becomes independent her representatives will have the advantage of a good reputation in the diplomatic world, and

whenever the Nigerian Government considers it necessary to express a view on some topic of international interest, it will be accorded the importance which it deserves in every one of the countries in which our staff have undergone a part of their training.

In Nigeria itself there have been important developments of an international nature. Early this year the conference of the Council for Technical Co-operation South of the Sahara, colloquially known as C.C.T.A., accepted our invitation to move their Headquarters from London to Lagos and in May the Secretary-General arrived with an advance party. (*Hear, hear*).

The International Labour Organisation has set up its African Field Office here, and the World Health Organisation has set up its Western Area Office, while the Area Representative for U.N.I.C.E.F. has been stationed in Nigeria for the past two years, so you see that Nigeria has gradually and almost imperceptibly been taking her place as the leading state in this part of Africa. (*Hear, hear*).

Another international organisation which has been of importance to Nigeria is the Council which operates the international tin agreement and on which this country is now represented by a Nigerian. The agreement was brought into operation because of the probable collapse of the tin market owing to over-production. By accepting the terms of the agreement the Federal Government succeeded in stabilising the labour situation in the Plateau minesfield.

Although there was a substantial reduction of Nigerians and expatriates in the labour force, the mining industry was able to survive and the voluntary restriction in output has been successful in maintaining an economic price for tin metal and has enabled most of the operators to continue profitable production.

This leads me, Sir, to what may well turn out to be the most important economic event in the whole history of Nigeria. I refer to the discovery of oil by Shell-BP. The period under review has seen the birth of a Nigerian oil industry. Oil was first found in January 1956 in Brass Division. In November of the same year a second strike of oil was made east of Port Harcourt, and the first export shipment was made in February last year.



[THE PRIME MINISTER]

Broadly speaking the prospects for the oil industry are reasonably hopeful. Bearing in mind the development which a successful oil industry would make possible and the financial resources which it would make available to Nigeria the government has done everything in its power to encourage the company and is confident that its policy will prove to have been in the best interests of Nigeria.

And now I turn to the part played by the Federal Public Service. I wish to commend the manner in which the civil service, taken as a whole, has adapted itself to the new conditions and has worked hard and loyally to give effect to our policies. Many officers work long hours in their offices, unseen by the public, in order to ensure that the business of Government is carried on smoothly. We ourselves know something of the pressure at which the staff of this House works so that we may carry out our parliamentary business without delay and we appreciate their co-operation in dealing with our needs. Not only to them but to the whole of the Civil Service I place on record our gratitude and acknowledge the debt which Nigeria owes to them. As I said, this House has assumed responsibility for the conduct of our affairs, and similarly great advances have been made in the training of Nigerian manpower and in the Nigerianisation of the Public Service. The progress may have been disappointing at times but qualifications cannot be earned in a minute. The University College of Ibadan has developed enormously in the past five years. Graduates from the college are now coming into the public service in increasing numbers—there are some in my office and in the Foreign Service—and I can assure you that we have every right to be satisfied with the quality of the graduates being produced by Nigeria's University College. The Federal Scholarship scheme which was approved at the first Budget Meeting of this House is now bearing fruit. This operation of Nigerianising the public service is one of enormous complexity in the rapidly expanding economy of the country and we have had to share the available candidates with commerce. I must say that I think the commercial houses have done very well themselves in training their Nigerian employees to fill managerial posts and to undertake work which had previously been done by expatriates.

The same may be said of the statutory corporations, the Electricity Corporation, the Ports Authority and the others. If we compare their present staffs with those of January 1955, it is quite amazing what progress has been made. A lot of credit is due to those who have used their energies and their imagination in supervising the various training schemes.

Our armed forces too have been shaped to fulfil the needs of an independent nation. One of the early tasks of this House was to pass an Ordinance changing the designation of the military forces which had been part of West Africa Command, and to introduce the designation "Nigerian Military Forces". Last year Nigeria took over full responsibility for these forces from the United Kingdom Government. In order to make the force an efficient guardian of our frontiers and to enable Nigeria to undertake any commitments which may devolve upon us as the result of our future membership of the Commonwealth and of the United Nations, the establishment of the military forces has been enlarged and brought up to date. Steps have been taken wherever possible to co-ordinate the requirements of the military forces with those of the Nigeria Police in matters such as transport, wireless equipment, and weapons.

To attract the type of soldier required in these modern times we have expanded the Boys' Company of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment into the Nigeria Military School and for the training of Officers we are building—it is now very nearly completed and should be opened in January—the Nigeria Military Training College. (*Hear, hear*). Nigerian cadets have been sent in increasing numbers to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and to the Cadet School at Aldershot. Besides these we have been sending Commissioned Officers to the United Kingdom to attend specialist training courses. By these measures we have succeeded in increasing the number of Nigerian Officers from a mere handful five years ago to 40 to-day. British Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers have gradually been reduced as Nigerians have been trained, and our success in this field can be measured by the figures over the past two years. Whereas in 1957 there were 122 of these British Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers, to-day there are only 12. (*Hear, hear*).



Our land forces now have their counterpart on the sea. The Royal Nigerian Navy has come into being and only last month took over its first real warship, a frigate appropriately named H.M.N.S. "Nigeria". With both military and naval forces we have progressed as far and as fast as our financial resources have permitted and I am confident that upon attaining independence we shall be able to defend our frontiers in the event of disturbance arising in neighbouring territories. (*Hear, hear.*)

As with External Affairs a self-contained Defence Division is now established which will be readily transformed at Independence to a Ministry of Defence. Furthermore the Governor-General who at present is responsible under the Constitution for all defence matters within the Federation and for all matters relating to the Nigerian armed forces of the Crown, has set up a Defence Council which includes the Prime Minister of the Federation and two other Federal Ministers and the Regional Premiers. It is His Excellency's policy to consult this Council on matters of importance affecting the general administration and development of the armed forces so that there may be an easy transference of responsibility in October 1960. I should add that while in London for the resumed Constitutional Conference we came to an understanding with the United Kingdom Government on matters of mutual defence interest and this will be embodied in a formal agreement upon the attainment of independence.

We are seeking not only political but also economic independence. It is not our intention to be at the mercy of more powerful nations because we need their financial support; so we must have a healthy economy. (*Hear, hear.*) This will depend on transport to a much greater extent than is commonly realised. Very spectacular progress has been made with every form of transport, road, rail, water and air. The facilities offered at ports generally, and at Lagos and Port Harcourt in particular, have enabled the enormous increase in both imports and exports to be handled without delay and this has appreciably increased the standard of living and amenities throughout the country. The Railway has carried much more revenue-earning freight and at the same time larger tonnages have been carried by road and on the rivers. This

progress is very remarkable and I remember, Sir, that in 1955 when I was Minister of Transport and visited the United States of America I studied the manner in which that great country had tackled the problem of competition between rail, road and water transports. At the time I thought that we in Nigeria would not be worried by these problems for some time—about fifteen years I thought—but now, just four years later, I find that the problem is already with us. So swift has been the pace of our economic development!

It is our policy to organise the expansion of transport facilities in such a way as to provide the greatest possible benefit to the economy from the money which we are able to allocate for this purpose. The co-ordination of all transport plans is of the utmost importance and this subject is now being carefully examined by the Joint Planning Committee of the National Economic Council as one of its most urgent tasks.

Hon. Members will have read with interest the sessional paper containing the statement of policy for the Niger and Benue, those two great natural assets of this country. The report of the consultants is the fruit of four years of practical investigation and will be invaluable to future Governments not least in making proper use of these two rivers to enable the transport of produce and merchandise to be organised efficiently and economically.

The ever increasing volume of exports and imports will call for more harbour facilities. We have so far as is possible anticipated these needs, by embarking upon the Escravos Bar project, by enlarging Port Harcourt, by reopening Koko port and by taking steps to encourage the development of an oil terminal on Bonny Island.

We have also made the industrial development of Nigeria one of our main objectives in order to increase the wealth and the standard of living of the people and to provide new sources of employment. (*Hear, hear.*) The most spectacular success in this field is undoubtedly the cement factory at Nkalagu which was financed largely by Federal Government money.

This House has played an active part in stimulating industrial development. You will remember the various ordinances which have



[PRIME MINISTER]  
 been passed in this House with the object of attracting overseas investment. In 1957 there was the Industrial Development (Import Duties Relief) Ordinance authorising in certain cases the refund of import duties on raw materials used in industry, and in 1958 the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Ordinance which extended the benefits allowed to Pioneer Industries. I mention these matters now because it is essential that an independent Nigeria should have an expanding economy.

I have not mentioned the achievements of the Posts and Telegraphs or the many buildings which have been constructed by the Federal Government, some of them larger than any we expected to see in Nigeria. We have built offices, the Central Bank, Army and Police barracks, police stations, post offices and the rest, in order to keep pace with Nigeria's growing needs.

And in doing all this I am happy to say that we have met with co-operation from the Regional Governments. We have always taken care not to trespass into Regional subjects and have sought to work harmoniously with the Regional Governments to plan the political and financial economy of Nigeria. Perhaps it is in our relations with the Regional Governments that there is the best evidence that Nigeria is ready for independence. (*Hear, hear*). Any idea of rivalry between the Federal and the Regional Governments has been banished and we have tried to make them truly complementary to one another and have protected the unity of Nigeria by acknowledging the necessity for decentralisation of authority.

Independence is not an end in itself. It is the means whereby we are determined to ensure that Nigeria plays her full part in world affairs and whereby Nigerians are enabled to enjoy a higher standard of living both materially and spiritually. In working for independence we are creating a national self-respect.

There are critics who say of countries such as ours when they are seeking to become independent, that only a small minority of the population wants independence and that the vast majority are ignorant of what is at stake. It is therefore all the more necessary that we, the politically-conscious members of this huge country should realise the burdens which

we are bringing on ourselves. Personally I have no hesitation at all in replying to such critics that we are not only willing but eager to carry that burden of responsibility. We shall be all the stronger spiritually as a free and independent nation, and the need to protect the interests of those whom we represent will be an incentive which will give us the courage to overcome all our difficulties.

What the future holds no man can tell, but I do most earnestly call on everyone in Nigeria, whatever his position, whether he be Chief, or politician, businessman or trader or farmer, whatever they may be I ask them all to strive their utmost to assist in building up Nigeria into a strong united nation so that she may fulfil her destiny as the leader of the African continent. (*Prolonged applause*).

Finally, Mr Speaker, I wish to thank the Members of this House for the support which they have given to the Government, and for their assistance in planning the future of this great country. Gathered in, as this House is, from every corner of Nigeria it enables us to be kept informed of what is needed in every Division and of what is expected from the Federal Government. I thank them and I pray God that the Members who form the next House of Representatives will not only work like them for the Federation of Nigeria but will also take the wider opportunity which will be theirs after independence to labour for the good of all mankind. (*Prolonged applause*).

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise in support of this Motion. It is a historic Motion indeed. This Motion reminds me of the various achievements of this great Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister. But we must first of all look to the previous years before the present Constitution came into being. We know what actually befell the country before the Macpherson Constitution. There was conflict all over the country. There was no unity in the running of Government affairs, but what happened when in 1954 this Constitution came into being? We started to see a workable Constitution and this went on until about 1956 when the National Government was formed under the able leadership of our Prime Minister.



There was co-ordination in all activities of the Government. There was stability in the Government proposals. We have seen our achievements in the military sphere; in the industrial sphere too.

There was a common belief that Africans cannot stand on their own but with the leadership of Africans in the Council of Ministers the whole country has seen that if given a place we shall move the world. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad to note that within this short time that this House has come into existence the Federal Government has done a lot for the people of this country. We have seen the establishment of the Central Bank and the introduction of our own currency. We have seen the University College Teaching Hospital which is an institution set up by this Government in order to train our doctors. We have seen the achievement or the establishment of our Royal Naval Force. Let me go now to the Railway system and communications of this country. We have seen vast improvements in our road and railway communications in this country. We have seen also the achievements in the telecommunications system of this country which is second to none in the world.

**Several hon. Member : No !**

**Mr Adeyinka :** I have seen telecommunications in other parts of West Africa and in other parts of the world but I think Nigeria's progress is commendable. Mr Speaker, Sir, Nigeria cannot have everything in one day. We are trying and by the grace of God we shall fulfil our proposals. We have everything to be proud of in this country. We have everything to be proud of in this Government. This country has increased the welfare of the people. This Government has established what I will call a welfare state in this country, whether we like it or not. So all these achievements go to show that Nigerians can manage their own affairs.

This very Federal Government has prepared this country for independence. It was on the Floor of this House that the first Motion asking Her Majesty's Government to give Nigeria self-government was moved and was unanimously accepted. There was a time on the Floor of this House when a Motion was moved on self-government and we know what conflict came out of it, but with unity and sense of judgment a Motion was moved on the Floor of

this House asking for independence and it was unanimously carried. That shows how responsible and realistic this particular Government is.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion has everything for our support because nobody will doubt that the Federal Government formed by the Prime Minister is one of the best in West Africa. I will not say that this Government has achieved 100 per cent success but we have everything to be proud of.

The first challenge that came to this Federal Government was the question of Nigerianisation of the Civil Service—that Nigerians should be given places to manage their own affairs. The Prime Minister knowing the views of this House set up a committee under the able leadership of Chief T. T. Solaru and his deputy Jaja Wachuku, the report of which is now in the hands of hon. Members. Reading through this report you will agree with me that this Government has set up a place where future Nigerians will find themselves in super scale posts, which will enable them to be at the head of various Government departments. This is one of the achievements of this Government which cannot be denied.

Another achievement, Sir, as I am a strong advocate of the Army, is the establishment of our own Army. Before this House came into being—before the establishment of the Nigerian Military Force—we had only five Nigerian Officers. Ghana was ahead of us and Members of this House cried over it but now we have many Nigerian Officers in the Military Forces. That shows a remarkable achievement as far as this Government is concerned. That shows that this Government can think far ahead, that Nigeria cannot remain without a strong Army. Some people say that Nigeria has no territorial ambition. I disagree with them.

**Several hon. Members : No, no !**

**Mr Adeyinka :** May I then say we have territorial integrity to defend. We now have a strong army and we now have a very strong Naval Force but what remains is a strong Royal Air Force which I am sure the Government will eventually establish.

Sir, now that this House is coming to an end it is for this reason that the Prime Minister has tabled this Motion. We have everything to be proud of; we have every reason to be



[MR ADEYINKA]  
proud of this Government; we have every reason to be proud of this great nation. (*Hear, hear*). We have everything to be proud of under the leadership of this great African Statesman. Every Member in this House can go back satisfied that he has been a Member of the highest Parliament in the country. I think it is a remarkable achievement for one to be a Member of this hon. House. Going back to past history I remember when I came to this House I came from the Civil Service but I have nothing to be ashamed of for being a Member of this great House. I am proud not only of being a Member of this House but of being in the Federal Parliament when the Motion for independence was moved and unanimously carried. It is a great achievement. I hope that all of us will come back to this House in an independent Nigeria (*Hear, hear*). I beg to support.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, on a Motion of this kind it is but imperative that one should look back into the past and see the achievements that have been made by this our Federal Government of which we are proud. But, Sir, the Prime Minister has already told us what achievements we have made and it is not for me to go into detail of the achievements that have already been made by the Government, except perhaps to make passing reference where I possibly can and pat the Government on the back and congratulate them for the excellent service they have rendered to this country. Sir, every Member of this hon. Legislature, and indeed every man and woman of this big country of ours, in this great Federation of Nigeria is proud of the Federal Government of Nigeria in general and in particular is proud of our able, dependable, reliable and responsible Prime Minister. (*Hear, hear*). He has, Mr Speaker, established not only for himself but also for the entire nation international reputation, goodwill and respect for the people of this country. Nigeria to-day, Sir, enjoys the goodwill of people abroad. We command the respect of people, and the confidence that people overseas have for this country, Nigeria, is tremendous and we are indeed grateful to this Federal Government, which is the cause of this goodwill that we enjoy and which has created this inter-national reputation which has earned the respect and confidence of the people outside Nigeria.

Sir, if there is one thing this Government has done it is the unity of this great country. This Government is proud about the unity of this country. Unity in Nigeria is important. Unity is important in our political achievement and in our political development. It is important in our economic development. For a long time people outside Nigeria have been criticising us. Many have thought that we will not be able to come together and unite for a common good. Sir, I remember in one of the last Constitution Conferences when there were some sort of argument and criticism against one another, some people began to think as to whether we would be able to come together and unite and work for independence in one voice. But to their disappointment a Motion asking for independence for the whole country in 1960 was unanimously passed. Sir, we were then able to tell the world that after all, regardless of our political differences, regardless of whatever differences that may exist in this country, we could come together and unite for the common good and ask for the independence of the country, which is so vital to everyone of us with one voice. This is an achievement. Unity is very important, without which we could not have achieved our political independence, without which the economic development of the country would have been impossible.

I say that the economic development would have been impossible. We know that very well, and those of us who have been overseas have heard from foreigners that unless this country is united, unless there is unity in the country, they will never come to give us a helping hand in the affairs of our own country.

As I have always said the main problem confronting Nigeria to-day is the raising of the living standard of our people. The Federal Government has done a great deal. They have done a great deal because they know what we need. What we need to-day is money. God has been so good and so gracious as he has given us our natural resources in abundance. As I have always said in this House we have a lot of natural resources untapped in this country and we have to develop our country by tapping and exploiting the natural resources in Nigeria. But Sir, we simply cannot tap these natural resources unless we have capital. This capital we cannot raise entirely and all of us believe



that for a long time to come we have to depend on foreign capital to develop our natural resources. Mr Speaker, Sir, foreign capital cannot just come; it has got to be attracted, and to attract this foreign capital we have got to make sure that there is unity in this country. No foreign investor will be so foolish as to invest his money in a country where there is no unity. Quite apart from that unity we want peace and tranquillity and that is one thing that can bring about political stability. Sir, I can say that having achieved unity we have to establish peace and tranquillity in Nigeria.

And one other thing that we have been able to do is to create an incentive and so establish in the minds of our people economic determination. All these things the Federal Government has been able to do and it is an achievement. Sir, we can be sure that with these responsibilities before us—responsibility of raising the living standard of our people—the Federal Government has set the ball rolling and has created an incentive that will attract foreign investors to come to Nigeria and invest money, the money we will use to exploit our minerals and develop the country's economy. Sir, this unity is also something important. It is important because Nigeria, once it becomes independent will be one of the greatest or the biggest African countries in the world and by virtue of its size and population Nigeria will steer the wheel of the destiny of the whole of African countries in the world. Nigeria will be the leader of all the African countries in the world. Nigeria will be in the forefront in the effort to form a United States of Africa (*Hear, hear*). But Nigeria cannot do this unless we are united. If we are unable to do this no one country will have confidence in us, and that leadership which is expected of us will not be forthcoming, for people will not respect that leadership.

I am pleased, Sir, and grateful to this Federal Government that we have been able to give a very good impression of ourselves outside and we have been able to create more confidence so that when we come to lead Nigeria will really fulfil the confidence placed on her.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one other thing which the Federal Government has done is placing Nigeria on the map. Some years ago

very few people knew anything about Nigeria, but with this Federal Government and with some of our able Ministers going out, they have been able to place Nigeria on the map. To-day in the United States, in England, in France, in Germany and in fact in every part of the world Nigeria is known. People know that there is a place like Nigeria, that big country with potential wealth, a country that is waiting to lead other African countries to independence, that country that is waiting to lead other African countries to form a United States of Africa. People all over the world know where Nigeria is and how great Nigeria is. This, Sir, is an achievement in itself.

Here in this country the Government is doing everything possible to establish all sorts of industries. That is another achievement. The establishment of industries in this country is very important, though I have got my own feeling that Nigeria, being mainly an agricultural country, more attention should be focussed on the improvement of the method of farming. Since the British came into this country we have had a certain method of farming, and our method of farming has not changed. I am asking the Federal Government, with all the good things the Government has been able to do, to go a little bit further to do something to improve the method of our farming. After all, Nigeria being an agricultural country any economic planning in which our agriculture is not taken into consideration is not worthy.

Sir, I would like to say this, that education has progressed a good deal, but when we talk about education one cannot help thinking about scholarship awards. This is a time for Nigeria, or the Federal Government of Nigeria, to ask the Federal Scholarships Board to gear scholarship awards to the needs of the country. Unless we gear awards to the needs of our country we will be merely giving awards at random with no purpose or objectives at all. In the previous years about 180 scholarship awards were made every year. Because of the independence that is coming this year the Government has seen that it is important to treble the scholarship awards. About 500 scholarships will be awarded this year and I am glad that already 300 scholarships have been awarded. I am asking that when awarding scholarships every care should be taken to see that the scholarship awards reflect the true nature of the Federation because these people



[M. MAITAMA SULE]

that are awarded scholarships will eventually come back to the Federal Government after qualifying to take up appointment in the Federal Public Service. The Federal Public Service, as has always been said in this House, must always reflect the true nature of the Federation. There is no politics in this—Nigeria being a Federal territory must have everything Federal and if there is a Federal Public Service, it is only but natural that it must reflect the true nature of the Federation. No part of Nigeria must be relegated to the background in the award of scholarships. If there is any particular section that has been relegated to the background then every effort should be made to enhance that part in order that it will come forward and take its proper place in the whole country.

I must say, Sir, that very little has been done in the field of commerce. I have already said in this House that the establishment of industries is very important indeed but it is equally important that we encourage commerce. Commerce and industry are inseparable. They always go side by side. When we establish industries in this country and they begin to produce certain things those things must go into the market. And that is where commerce comes in. The Federal Government has done very well indeed in providing loans for industrial enterprises but little has been done to give help to commercial enterprises. I am looking forward to the time when the Federal Government will do something to encourage commerce in the country.

I must point out that Government has done very well indeed in trying to take the initiative in making the country alert to its responsibility as regards international organisations. As soon as Nigeria becomes independent she will be called upon to take part in international organisations. We must prepare the minds of our people now before Nigeria becomes independent so that when it becomes independent we shall not find it rather new to take up our position in international organisations. Nigeria as an independent country must be a democratic country. There must be tolerance, peace and tranquillity prevailing in the country. There must be freedom of worship, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. All these things must be established. I am glad that the Government has made a move towards this end.

Finally, Sir, I would say that judging from our past achievements and from the excellent leadership that the Federal Prime Minister has been able to give to this country I would appeal to the country to give us the tools so that we will finish the job.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, with pride in my heart, confidence in my people and faith in the destiny of our country I rise to support this Motion wholeheartedly. Speaking in this House I speak to Nigeria because in this House we have a Member from every Division in this country. All our people are here represented and when we speak together in this House I know Nigeria speaks with one voice. It has always been a great force that moves the individual Members of this House when Nigeria gets together, and my prayer for the future is that this Legislature shall always be that fountain of energy which will bring our peoples together. We have succeeded in the last five years to stand together on national issues, to stick together on national issues. I pray that the spirit of brotherhood which has been common during the last five years will always remain in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the foundation of true democracy has been built in this House. When I look round this House I see people with different beliefs, different ideologies, different faiths in almost everything; but when it comes to our common country we have one single faith, one single belief and one single determination. We have shown that before, we shall always show it again and again and at any time to those critics which my hon. Friends in this House have referred to, and they will see that when we make a demand we speak as Nigerian nationals, we speak in one voice and body. The National Government, the creation of the last five years, has gone a long way towards consolidating the friendly spirit amongst different parties in the country. I can only pray for the future that that consolidation that has started must grow from strength to strength whether there will be a National Government or not.

I hope the Nigerian Parliament of the future, be it a Government in power with an opposition, that both can work as constructively as we have done in this House for the last five years. All



I say now, Sir, I will not refer to the details of our achievements. Who does not know them? The people know it, they feel it, they have seen it. In fact, it is going so fast that even to notice these changes is a miracle. They are moving at a terrific pace. I can only pray, Sir, that those of us who will be useful to our country will come back to the House. Those of us who will not be useful I am happy to say that they will not come back to the House. I also pray that those of us outside Nigeria who will prove useful to the House will come back. It is only God who can tell me who will or will not be useful to the House, it is not for me to say who will or who will not. But I can only pray that this House in future, as it has been in the last five years, be peopled with persons of responsibility and persons of determination not to think as Yorubas or Hausas or Nupes or Ibos, but to think first and foremost as Nigerians.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I would like to say, let us all go back to our people, let us go in the spirit of brotherhood that has been planted in this House. Let us face the people, so that they can face the future with the same confidence, as every Member of this House must face it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion.

**Chief S. J. Mariere** (Urhobo East): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me an opportunity of making my contribution to a Motion I would describe as one of the greatest Motions that has ever been moved in this House since the life of this Parliament. To start with I wish to associate myself with Members who have already expressed their congratulations to the Federal Government for the various achievements that have taken place since the Government set the machinery working. In all fields we have had great improvements, and I wish to say that I feel compelled to pay a special tribute to the sound commonsense of the Prime Minister for making the experiment of the National Government. After all it seems to me that commonsense is not all that common. It has been said that everybody has commonsense but not everybody can use it properly. I agree with the Prime Minister when he said that our greatest achievement is the peaceful transfer of power.

Here, Sir, I go to the part played by the British Government. The true Christian spirit of the British people is worthy of emulation by

any nation aspiring to greatness. It is the spirit of live and let live. Several years ago an hon. Member who is no longer in this House remarked that Britain is granting us independence with a smile. Someone ejaculated that it was a forced smile which was not from the heart. Sir, events have proved that the smile is truly from the heart. After all the expression of a man's face is a true index of his mind. What else do we want the British people to do to show that they are friendly, sincere, and sympathetic with our problems and aspirations.

We asked for independence and a date has been fixed for it, but in order not to leave us groping in economic darkness they are helping us with millions of pounds on loans. Only last week it was announced to us that a grant of £200,000 was made available by the British Government for industrial development. This is the spirit of live and let live for which we are very grateful to the British Government.

We cannot think of the achievements of our Government without looking back to the part played by, I may say modestly, the Speaker of this House, the Clerk of the House and his officers and the civil servants. On the assumption of full responsibility of independence I would like to see a change of attitude on some of the objectionable attitudes which are rampant in some of the departments of the country. I refer to the attitude of 'nothing goes for nothing' practised when civil servants perform some of their duties to members of the public. Civil servants are paid to serve the public and should not demand extra pay from members of the public.

The second point I want to make concerning civil servants is that they should be prepared to give work for the value of money paid to them. In the past there is this attitude of looking to the service as 'oyibo's work', that is, the white man's work. To-day the work is no longer 'oyibo's work'. It is our own work. When we have independence and we have our people to man all the departments of Government we shall be justifying the great work done by the Nigerianisation Committee if our civil servants will rise up to the occasion.

The third point about civil servants is that they should realise that they hold a position of permanence in the country. Unlike politicians that come and go they remain as servants of the



[CHIEF MARIERE]

people with any government that comes to power. I therefore want to advise them that they should not become civil servants *cum* politicians. They should not attempt to sabotage the efforts of any government. It is their duty to steer clear of politics. They have one right and that right is to cast their votes into the ballot box. It should end there. Those who would not remain as civil servants to serve the country but play politics with the affairs of the country should leave the service and go and campaign and become elected Members of the House. I like this to be pumped into their ears because it is important. A position of permanence into which they are placed is such that they should not dabble into politics because it will make them align themselves to one political party in the way that if any government comes into power under one political party they will be embarrassed.

I am very happy that we have reached this stage and I am glad to be one of those who have taken part to see about the independence of the country that is coming ahead. I overheard the Prime Minister when he said that we are striving to get our political power and we are getting it. We are not only doing that, we are also trying to capture economic power. This is very good news indeed because I do not believe that if we have political power without economic power we have done what is required of us. I am glad that the Report of the Committee on Aid to African Businessmen has in a way provided an answer to what the Prime Minister said about economic power because there you find quite a lot of recommendations that if implemented will bring a very great change in the economic growth of this country.

I also heard the Prime Minister mention the Report of the Consultant in respect of Rivers Niger and Benue. It is very very interesting and at this point I would like to say that special attentions should be given to the solution which the Consultants suggested for certain difficulties confronting the people staying on the River Niger. In some parts of the lower Niger you will find that quite a lot of houses are being washed out and people are rendered homeless. If you look at some portions down the River Niger you will see that the banks are washed away due to erosion and the people are suffering a great deal. I am sure when the time comes for the Government to implement the recommendations I hope they will be

able to relieve the suffering of the people living along the Niger now rendered homeless. I hope the Government will do something to see that these people are cared for. It is a very interesting debate and it will be unfair for one Member to occupy the whole time when other hon. Members want to speak. Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion.

**Mr E. C. W. Howard** (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this Motion. I have the authority to speak on behalf of those Special Members who are present in supporting this Bill with the utmost enthusiasm. Unfortunately, two of our Members, through circumstances beyond their control, are unable to be present, and Mr Turton-Hart, who if I may use the expression has been my stable companion here through many a debate in this House, has been prevented through illness from being present. I know it is a bitter disappointment to him and I know that I can also speak on his behalf.

Sir, it has been a very great privilege and honour for us to have been Members of this House through such a significant period in Nigeria's history, and we can fully appreciate all that has been done by this Government.

To people like myself who have lived many years in Nigeria, it is amazing to realise what has been done in such a short space of time. If we, in any small way, have been able to contribute to the debates in this House, that is a great pleasure to us.

For our part, it has been of immense benefit and help to us to have been able in such intimate surroundings to know of the hopes, aspirations and wishes of this representative cross-section of the people of Nigeria.

Many kind things have been said about the Prime Minister. There is nothing more that I can add, other than to say that we support everything that has been said. I think Nigeria should thank the Almighty that the occasion produced the man. (*Applause*) I would also like to say that we have great admiration for the way in which the Ministers, both past and present, have carried out their work and all that they have been able to accomplish in this short time in their own respective spheres.

And last but not the least, Sir, we would like also to record our appreciation to the Members of this House who have always listened to us so courteously when they felt we



had anything to say. I would like to conclude by subscribing to what the Prime Minister has said about Members of the House and to wish them the best of luck and success in whatever sphere they find themselves in the future.

**Mallam Bello Dandago (Sarkin Dawaki)** (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the able speech by the exceptionally able Prime Minister. Sir, the achievements of our Government and of this House in this Federation of Nigeria are so many, are so self-evident that anybody can see and it is very difficult to say 1, 2, 3, 4 because there is improvement in every section of life.

Mr Speaker, Nigerians have demonstrated and proved the old saying that you just cannot teach the art of self-government by advice or from text-books. The best way is to let them rule. Now the Council of Ministers ever since they came into power have proved to us that they have a sense of leadership, that they have a sense of *esprit de corps*. They can work as a team for the national interest for their own country better than anybody can do for us from outside. This is self-evident. Mr Speaker, it is within the life-time of this House that all the three Regions are self-governing. Mr Speaker, it is within the life-time of this honourable House that Her Majesty the Queen has graciously promised to grant independence to the Federation of Nigeria.

Sir, the achievements of this Federation of Nigeria command very high respect. Prior to this parliamentary procedure nobody could say that Nigerians could do this and that. So despite all our superficial differences of party politics, that Nigerians when put to the test can prove themselves equal to the task is an achievement proving that the Nigerian can stand side by side with anybody in the world, given the opportunity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I join other previous speakers in congratulating the Prime Minister and Members of this House for the great achievement that we have all together made during the last five years. And in doing this, Mr Speaker, I would like to analyse some words used in the Motion.

I am making particular reference to the words 'achievement' and 'satisfaction'. What is satisfaction after all? It means contentment, happiness, the joy of service rendered, and I think you all join the Prime Minister in sharing that happiness which we have peacefully enjoyed during the last five years. This country is proud of this legislature, proud of her team of Ministers who have strenuously steered the ship of state under the captaincy of the Prime Minister. We are happy indeed and lucky to have such a man who has been described by the Governor-General as a man of integrity (*Hear, hear*). It is not everybody in the country that can be so described by such a high official but he has been described in that way. I want to make it known to the Members of this House that behind politics there is what is called personality—individual personality and reputation. We cannot afford to lose the latter in preference to the former and this is what gives me the happiness that I cherish in supporting the motion. We have really made good preparations.

Yesterday the hon. the Minister of Works and Surveys gave an account of the work he has done in improving our roads, and many other Ministers have also given account of their achievements. We are all satisfied, although the country is so wide that we cannot satisfy everybody at one time. We are all happy with the strides made in education. We are all happy with the way our people have maintained peace without bloodshed. We are all happy that we shall all be able to carry on very well the arduous tasks that we have ahead.

One of the other things that has given us this satisfaction in our achievements is when you look at Lagos. You see the heavy and expensive office blocks that are being erected. Many of our young men who have gone abroad will be surprised to see some of these buildings when they return and I am sure that these things are all counting towards our progress as people who are ripe enough to look after our own affairs. If it were not so, the British Government would not have been satisfied to accede to our request.

Now, Sir, I wish to point out that we should not rest on our oars. We still have greater tasks ahead. We look up to the Prime Minister and his team of Ministers to show during the next election that it is very fair and free election because that would speak loud to the



[MR UBANI-UKOMA]  
outside world that these people are really ready to look after their own affairs. Then we will have no white man to go to report to. We would have to report to ourselves, and if we make every arrangement in a satisfactory manner there is no reason for you to go to report to anybody. So that is one of the tasks ahead that will make us shine in the outside world.

Mr Speaker, I wish to give a chance to other Members to speak and in doing that I would ask them to keep quiet for the time being. I would say this at the moment, that the speed of Nigerianisation has been so satisfying that important key posts will be taken over next year when our independence comes and that is one of the achievements of this Government of the Federation.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I commend to God to keep everybody in this House safe and free and to remember that in this period we are passing through we all have worked together cheerfully. Even though we have different political idealogies there has always been in this House that cheerful atmosphere which has made it possible for me to think that it is always good for one to say that he belongs to Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

*Sitting suspended : 10.30. a.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 10.50 a.m.*

**Mr J. M. Udochi** (Afenmai) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting this Motion which has been so ably moved by our respected Prime Minister. (*Hear, hear*). I have no doubt at all in my mind that the people of this country, no matter from what Region they hail, have great satisfaction in the work that has been done by the Federal Government in preparing us for our independence.

Mr Speaker, Sir, independence is the natural and inalienable right of every people, but through accident of history, some people have found themselves deprived of their independence. Now, Sir, when people are deprived of their independence, there is always a reason given, that is that they are incapable of governing themselves. And one of the greatest achievements the Federal Government has done is to help to bring it home to the peoples

of the world that the Africans, that Nigerians, when given the chance, can govern themselves. The achievement of the Federal Government in helping to create abroad a healthy atmosphere, an atmosphere that makes people now believe that Nigerians are able to rule themselves, is a very great one.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government has done everything to lay the foundation for a solid and constitutional evolution of this country. The Prime Minister has very ably given account of the achievements of the Government in the various fields of endeavour. Although we all know them, it is necessary at times to remind us of them. We do see to-day that in our public service Nigerians are holding their own very proudly; we do see to-day the roads of our country are being expanded; we see also that power is being created in the form of electricity in order to encourage industry. All these are the fundamental requirements of a people who wish to govern themselves, and our Government has done all it can to give us these things. We are therefore very proud that they have done this in this country and through their achievements we are moving to-day proudly to independence without qualms.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this House has made its own humble contributions, and I think that one of the greatest achievements of this House was its ability to appoint a Prime Minister. Time was when our Cabinet was a conglomeration of Regions. That sort of thing would not have brought us to where we are to-day. It was very great for this House to have been able to impress on our rulers the necessity for giving us a leader in this House, which is the highest thing, and on the achievement of having a leader impinges all other things which we have achieved so far.

This is not an occasion on which to make long speeches because, as I have said, the Prime Minister has covered all the grounds on our various achievements. All we want to express in this House is to let the world know what the Government has done for us and that we are really grateful to them.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** (Orlu) : Mr Speaker, I support the Motion moved by the hon. Prime Minister with all my heart.

**An hon. Member** : And with all your soul.



**Dr Mbadiwe :** The Motion is very significant. It is a Motion to close the last chapter of the achievements, the yearnings and the aspirations of the people through their Legislature. It is necessary to take a look at the past in order to help assess the present and to forecast the future.

When this House began, it began with such misgivings that people doubted whether the ship of state could go on for three months. Some gave it a maximum of six months to fold up. But those were the predictions of man. For men of old had said that man proposes but God disposes. In the deep calm of what seemed to be a turbulent period, we have silent moulders, small constructive engineers working behind the scene. To them we owe what we now know. Some of them, their names may never appear in print. Some of them might be forgotten somewhere, but when the history is written about the present achievements of this Government, which is called the Foundation Government of the New Era, their names will come to the fore somehow. It is not two or three men, or three or four, that you see at the top of the ladder whose names appear in the first place, that help in the construction; there are many many more that say, "Young men, move forward; we remain behind to see that you never fall back." There were many who doubted whether the combustible element you find in petrol (*Interruption*) should work; whether the N.P.C. on the one hand and the N.C.N.C. on the other hand, could make a go of the whole thing. Many doubted it, but for once we saw that the best of constitutions can be foiled by ill-disposed men and the worst of constitution can be moulded by men who are sincere and honest, and willing to make the country become more viable than individuals who play.

That was what was happening. It was not the best of constitutions that confronted all parties, but it was the spirit, the men with sincere desire to make a go of the country that made the worst constitution to appear as if it was the best. (*Hear, hear*). That was what was happening, and behind all this we must pay tribute to Sir John McPherson, who is not here, who began it all. But our sincerest respect must go to the present Governor-General, Sir James Robertson, who has also

admitted, with that big heart of his—tall as he is, big-hearted—he made a big-hearted people to work with men who desire to move ahead. He was in that construction.

There are so many of us, Mr Speaker, that are looking at the past in this great House. If your body is in trouble, you want more, come to this House to get it. If you want to receive abuses, you come to this House and you get them. Mr Speaker, we want intellectual discussion and to learn from the House; you come to this House for that purpose, and you get it. I have never seen this type of House. Who contributed some of these things? The Prime Minister of the Federation. There was a time, Mr Speaker, I must confess, when seeing Akintola in this House made me furious, because he is going to criticise anything and everything, and I told the Prime Minister (he was not the Prime Minister then), "What do we do with this man, I am tired." So he would tell me, "There is nothing you can do about him; he will be there whether we like it or not." In fact he educated me in the responsibility of the Opposition. He said the Opposition is there to drive you, not to rule, and to come to the top. And that is his duty. If he keeps silent then he will not be doing the duty of the Opposition, which means he must go down.

**The Prime Minister :** I have succeeded !

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Mr Speaker, I must say that after some months if I come to this House and do not see Chief Akintola in his place I feel that the House will be too dull, and you see me next in my office. But if Akintola had come to this House to say that he is leaving, I would have protested to say, he will never leave.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : I am sure that Jaja does not agree with you.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** So that was the type of House which we had then. Mr Speaker, one of the greatest moves that has been made by this House is for this Government to have a Head. Because they succeeded, it has brought one thing to the outside world, not to Nigeria, but to the outside world—that the Nigerians are not the pack of ambitious men that they think, but having the institution of the Prime Minister in the atmosphere of the political nature of this country, that we could rise to



[DR MBADIWE]

have one person at the Head, shows to the world that this House is not a pack of ambitious men. Under the Constitution then there were two "I Ams", but you could never have declared a date for independence for this country with so many "I Ams"; there must be one voice which will say, "I am", for Nigeria.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** And fifty "Thou arts".

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it was the biggest decision that was taken in this hon. House. It hurt many people who were crying, "Independence", in the House, "Give us independence", but they did not mean it. When we take a decision, when we made that decision to give the country a voice some were hurt, some went in and grinned visibly, but indirectly pinched the people for accepting what they had been preaching outside.

**Several hon. Members :** Who are those ?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** Mr Speaker, Sir, it is clear to many many people that we were determined from the Floor of this House that whether it hurts anybody or it does not hurt, we cannot wait for some people to come in 1960 before we determine to have a Head to this country.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** We won't wait for Zik, anyway ! (Interruption).

**Dr Mbadiwe :** The nature of the people behind the scene (Interruption)

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Awolowo will never come here. (Laughter)

**Dr Mbadiwe :** The people who manned the House were so determined that we were able to meet the challenge of men who wanted to come to say to the world, "Let us move on ; independence in our lifetime," and "Go back and say, 'Look, wait till I am ready'".

**An hon. Member :** Until I am the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** So I am happy that this occurred.

Let me pay tribute to the man selected through the guidance of God to be the Prime Minister. (Hear, hear). Let me say this ; at times, having worked with him, I have become impatient, I have become. . . .

**Several hon. Members :** No, No.

**Dr. Mbadiwe :** Then I will meet him and say, "What are we doing to remain like this ? We ought to move forward". He said, "No, we will move forward, take your time". But apart from that, Mr Speaker, let me pay tribute to the Ministers, because no one single person can take these steps without the support and concurrence of his colleagues. No one single man can come and say "we are going to do this". It is that spirit of give and take.

**An hon. Member :** We know this.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** The Ministers from various political parties who want to belong, who want to make political capital of things, for them to see Nigeria as bigger than any individual, and to give way, is a tribute to the present Government. (Hear, hear). I have been from there to this place, so I am a living witness on the two sides.

The gopeller is the chief floor member, the best of the new philosophy of the new nations to come, and wherever we may advocate it we hold the balance. If we want to rule, we rule ; nothing can stop our rule. Mr Speaker, when I come to talk as an individual, you will know whether I move forward or backwards.

**An hon Member :** To move forward or backwards ?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** You will have to wait for me, and the day I arrive you run away from me. (Interruption). Mr Speaker, leadership could not have been possible but for the support the Floor Members gave to the whole proceedings. It was the Motion from the Floor of this House supported by all sides, including the Opposition, calling for a Head, that made it possible. Of course there are times which make this House a living and great organisation. You have destroyers and you have constructors. You have men there on the Floor of this House who are destroyers. Even on my right, with his hand on his head, that man is a destroyer. (Laughter). But one thing is certain, that if you once overdo it, he knows who arrests that speed, and that arrester is also here. So that makes the House so very interesting, and the humour is the changing humour of man to woman.

There are times, outside this House, when many things come up, and life and its problems. You remember the Federal House, the humour



you are going to get there, where the N.C.N.C. is giving us the humour of Akintola. If it is just intellectual discussion, with everyone trying to show how much he can show off his learning, Mr Speaker, it will be always hard to pick a quorum, but it is this admixture of humour, sense and sentiment, that makes it a very interesting House. And I still suggest that the Prime Minister should round off this Motion. I repeat that a photograph of all the Members of this House should be arranged. Not that people have not seen themselves in photographs and in print, but I still consider that this House has done a great deal in laying the foundation and construction work in this country, that in time it will hurt us if we do not get a record.

I do not know what the Information Service is doing; it is only for the Minister of Information to prepare his Film Unit and his photographs, and give us a time to take a full picture of this House, as a memento that we can keep. (*Hear, hear*). In many years, it will cost thousands of pounds. Some of these pictures are of the men who created the Central Bank and the Bornu extension railway, and a new addition to the economic expansion of this country; the bridging of the Niger; the investigation of the navigability of the River Benue; the opening of the Koko port.

Then, coming to the social reconstruction, we have central Lagos, the demolition of the buildings there and erection of new ones. The new Lagos in Suru-Lere. If you want to know what these men have done, you have only go to the new Lagos to see it. And free primary education. Go into the houses, with well-laid windows and air coming to the heads of the new generation to come. And if they fail in their education they will not say our own Government failed us, but rather, our brain has failed us. Do we talk of the health of the nation? The new extension of the hospital in the mainland, the extension of the hospital in Lagos, all are foundations for health. Without good health, what can any nation do?

Do you talk of statutory corporations? Do we need to talk about the Ports Authority with its expanding trade? Do we need to talk about the Railway Corporation, the effective work left by Sir Ralph Emerson? Do we need to talk about the L.E.D.B., and that genius of skill and speed, Mr Henderson

of the L.E.D.B.? Do we need to talk about the Electricity Corporation, the man who headed it; that genius that Jaja nearly destroyed, Eni Njoku? The ambitious people who cannot see something in others... Mr Speaker, they are all ambitious men on this my right! We have captured the political power through great effort of men for this country. The political power that will be handed to us by Great Britain will stand as the greatest living testimony of what has made Great Britain great.

Can we forget? No, we cannot forget. I hope that this country under the control of our people, will continue to be a place where England and her sons can depend that they have good neighbours, that they have won friendship that has been fashioned, not by force, but by common consent, and there is no power that endureth. It is not power that makes people fear you when you lift your swords over their heads, it is the power which you wield not knowing that you have power and let more devotion and love transcend. That is the power that endureth and that is the power that we intend to exercise in this country. Having power and not knowing that we have it and then doing work for mankind with that power, and the economic power as you already know, needs no further emphasis.

As I said before that any country aspiring to have political power without economic stability has not started and the first move is our Central Bank, with our own currency that will do it, and also the heavy programme of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will help achieve in that direction. I recall also that the Minister in one of his replies to my questions said that the work to use scrap iron for our steel industry is progressing. We cannot talk of an organised economy, we cannot talk of producing bicycles and motor-cars without having a steel industry, and that we are going to have a foundation with our scrap iron is a revealing tale for which we must congratulate this Government. Mr Speaker, Sir, to talk about the achievements of this Government one may go on for two days and two nights, and yet it will not end. Where does one begin and where does one end? That we have all involved ourselves in this great movement is sufficient consolation for people who have taken part in it. We people talk about those who will return and those who



[DR MBADIWE]  
will not return, but it is not returning to the House or not returning to the House that matters. It is what you did when you were in that House. Get a portrait of what you have done hang it in your house whether you come back or you do not come back and you will show to the world that when the foundation was being made you found the country in mud but you left it in marble, so that those who come after you may have a foundation to build yet a greater marble. When you reap you have done your duty for "honour and shame from no condition rise; act well your part," Mr Speaker.

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot-Ekpene):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to thank you specially for asking me to speak to this Motion because I have previously missed speaking on two important Motions. The first was the Motion on Independence for this country and the second was the Motion on the atom bomb test.

Speaking on this Motion I have first to congratulate the Prime Minister for having found it necessary on the eve of the dissolution of the first Federal Parliament of this country to bring this Motion forward so that we can get a catalogue, a true catalogue, of our achievements.

First of all, I must comment on the stability of the Federal Government. The Federal Government has been so stable that we have not had any occasion throughout our period of five years of moving beyond the ordinary division in this House. Occasionally I have felt in this House that certain issues have cropped up that might lead to the dissolution of the House the following day, but through the ingenuity of our able Prime Minister and of the Ministers in the Council of Ministers we have always resolved our differences so amicably that we came back the following day smiling. The next important thing that impresses me about this Government is the way we have come from our various constituencies to meet in this House as Nigerians. From our homes we must have come as *Kobokobos*, *Yamuris*, and *Gambaris* but here in this House we meet as Nigerians. I think this is really impressive and I feel we owe the members of Nigerian community a duty, to take this example and get them to copy this example so that they can also act as Nigerians. Our duty will be half done, if we meet as Nigerians and return to

preach against tribalism in the various communities. For this reason I am appealing to all Nigerians to sink their differences and work as Nigerians in whatever sphere of life they may find themselves just as we have done in this House.

I do not need to recount the various activities of the Government in various parts of the country but I wish to place on record on behalf of the people of my constituency the achievements of the Federal Government—Ikot-Ekpene Division.

First of all I must say that the Federal Government has erected a magnificent edifice, none other than the new imposing post office in Ikot-Ekpene and for that this Government deserves the greatest encomium. But I know that the Minister of Communications and Aviation will always remember that the job is not yet completed until the exchange which is a quarter of a mile away from the Post Office is moved into the new Post Office.

Secondly, I must thank the Federal Government for taking into consideration the proposal to run a new road into the other side of the old Calabar Province and thereby solve the problem of the Oron-Calabar Ferry which has always been a means of delay.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have quite a lot for which I should be grateful to the Federal Government but the one which has affected the rural communities in my constituency is the grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund which has made it possible for us to have water supply in the rural areas. That is an achievement which could not have been possible if money were not made available. Several Members have commented on certain bridges especially the Asaba-Onitsha Bridge. I need not comment on them but I want to say that all over the country we have evidence of the activities of this Federal Government which will remain on record, that the Federal Government did so much that it will take many years for any succeeding Government to surpass.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to hold the House long because I think other Members will also like to express their kind wishes to the Federal Government. I thank you very much and I thank our respected Prime Minister very much for our achievements.



**The Minister of Research and Information** (Hon. Victor Mukete): I wish to announce, Sir, with your permission that there will be a group photograph of Members of this House, including yourself, the Clerk of the House and the Sergeant-at-Arms on Monday at one o'clock (*Hear, hear*).

**Mr U. O. Ndem** (Calabar): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this very important Motion. This Motion is very timely. This Motion is a most important Motion and one upon which any Legislature can close its life. The achievements of the Federal Legislature are such that we cannot on the Floor of this House fully enumerate. I wish briefly to refer to those achievements as social achievements, material achievements, political achievements and above all spiritual achievements. I shall be very brief in my analysis of these four achievements which I would like to put before the House.

On the social side, Sir, you have to look around you and see lots of schools which have sprung up. You will find hospitals and you will find in general that the health of the people has improved. We have good roads and communications. We have a lot of things which in the past we could not speak of with pride to anybody outside Nigeria. But to-day, Sir, you can rub shoulders with some of the European nations in this world in spite of the fact that we are a young country which is emerging from a position of subordination into full status of nationhood.

Talking about material development I do not think we ever had in this country as many imposing buildings as we have now in Lagos. Everywhere you go you find several structures showing themselves up as monuments of a good work done. Mr Speaker, Sir, if we begin to talk about political achievements that will be like opening at wonderful book on this country. Ten years ago we might not have thought that the present milestone which we have reached in our onward march to nationhood could have been reached. It was not even something we should forecast. We started with a Constitution which was not a very good one, not one we should have been proud to work, but with the goodwill of the people who were then destined to work that Constitution we were able to overcome some of its difficulties. We were able to march trium-

phantly, overcoming its difficulties and now to-day we have marched forward. After the last Constitutional Conference we have been able to fix a date for our independence, 1st October, 1960. I think this is an achievement which the previous Government could not achieve, and perhaps it was not destined for them to achieve. Therefore we must feel proud that this Legislature was destined to pin down the British Government to fix a date for independence. Our methods have not been revolutionary, our methods are peaceful. Our methods are those of give and take. Our methods are those that we can always look back to and say: "happy was the hour when the Conference which was called to determine our future decided upon self-government."

Above all, Sir, is our spiritual achievement. We have produced something in this country even though many people do not realise it. But I think we have produced a Nigerian personality. We have produced even on the Floor of this House a Nigerian personality. Five years ago when we came here this side of the House was suspicious of the other side and that side of the House were suspicious of another side of the House. We came here as Easterners, we came here as Westerners, we came here as Northerners. The feelings of this House were based on tribal origin and they even disturbed the conduct of our debates. But what has happened to-day? The Northerners now realise that they have become Southerners and the Southerners realise they have become Northerners. We have mixed up in such a way that we meet each other as Nigerians. This is the greatest achievement of this Federal House. I think that this is the time in our history that we have produced a true Nigerian that knows no tribal boundary, that knows no regional boundary. He knows that he comes from Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is always somebody that symbolises all these achievements. It is here I have to refer to Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, whom God has allowed to become Nigeria's first Prime Minister. When we talk of unity in diversity I think our Prime Minister is the symbol of that unity in diversity. (*Hear, hear*). I have always regarded him as a very lucky man—an extremely lucky man. I happen to have known about his political career very many years ago. I was in the North then and I used to hear of that name



[MR NDEM]

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and we were very happy to read of his contributions in the old Legislative Council. Later on I came to know him personally, and I have always regarded the time I had to work with our Prime Minister in the Government of this Federation as one of the pleasant times I have ever enjoyed in my life.

**An hon. Member :** Are you not enjoying it now.

**Mr Ndem :** He is very proud and gentle. You will find that there is that emblem of sincerity and uprightness in him. If he gives you a handshake you know it comes from the bottom of his heart, and when you think of him as a personality produced at this time we have to thank God. He has been able to be in love with all sides of this House. I do not think that there is anybody in this House that can say the Prime Minister is not fair to him or that he has approached the Prime Minister at any given time and the Prime Minister did not listen to him. Whether you agree with him or not the fact still remains that the Prime Minister will be patient and hear you and give you advice (*Hear, hear*). We are very happy that occasion has arisen to-day for us to tell the Prime Minister what we think of him. Perhaps if we had not got this chance it would not have been possible for us to let him know that we value him, to let him know that he is the man that has brought unity to this country and may God help him to continue to be the Prime Minister of this Federation until 1960. (*Great Applause*). The people that are placed in a position as the Prime Minister has been placed did not give us their heart. We find that in other Governments of the Federation they do not give us their hearts. They are not sincere to us.

The Bishop of Rangoon once told the Malayan people: "We are happy to have a Federal Prime Minister who has given us his heart, and I think that is a big gift indeed. The heart of Abubakar is with us and I hope by the Grace of God our hearts are also with him.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Resolved,* That this House notes with satisfaction the achievements of the Federal Government in preparing Nigeria for Independence.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance entitled "The Scientific and Industrial Research Ordinance, 1959" be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, I have in the past in this honourable House said, I hope, enough to convince hon. Members of the paramount importance of research in the various fields of natural resources. At this time I propose to limit myself to a short appraisal of the situation in which the Federal Research Departments at present find themselves. All of them are seriously understaffed, and it is obvious that conditions of service offered to research workers have not been sufficiently attractive to persuade them to come here and join our research departments. Nigerianisation in this field has been slow. Our young men tend to train for the more glamorous professions and those which offer higher monetary reward. The life of a research worker is arduous and the rewards are few. But money is not the whole answer. Conditions of service are of particular importance to research workers, and it is for this reason that I am anxious to implement as soon as possible the recommendation of the Conference of Natural Resources held in February 1955, that the Research Departments should be converted into institutes.

Such conversion would not necessarily involve a major internal re-organisation of the Departments since they already follow roughly the pattern of research institutes elsewhere. The real advantage that an institute has over a Government Department is independence.



An eminent scientist has said, "It is widely recognised that the stage of fundamental research flourishes best in organisations or institutes which have considerable freedom from direct government control." Hon. Members may ask why this should be so. It is so because I think you know that the quality of research depends on the quality of the research workers, and the best men will go where they can work in an atmosphere as free as possible from extraneous, non-scientific interference, either political or bureaucratic.

Mr Speaker, I believe that this applies with equal force to the recruitment of research workers in Nigeria to-day, and I am convinced that the establishment of research institutes will go a long way towards meeting the necessary conditions of independence and autonomy. Ideally, research institutes should be fully endowed so as to be completely independent financially. This, however, is rarely possible in practice, and even in the United Kingdom, where agriculture is a much more highly capitalised industry, the agricultural research organisations depend very largely on Government grants.

There is little hope in present circumstances of the institutes being substantially endowed, but there is no objection in principle to annual grants being made to the institutes on the basis of the present Departmental allocations under the Economic Programme; and if these grants were fixed in advance on a three-year basis, the institutes would have a reasonable measure of financial autonomy.

Mr Speaker, hon. Members will, I hope, have read the Report by Sir Frank Engledow on the Federal Organisation for Agricultural, Veterinary, Forest and Fisheries Research which has been laid on the Table of this House as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1959. Sir Frank Engledow is an eminent scientist and a former Professor of Agriculture at Cambridge University. I invited him to Nigeria to advise me on the form natural resources research should take in Nigeria, as I considered it of first importance that the foundations should be rightly laid if the structure is to stand the test of time.

Sir Frank has produced a most valuable and interesting Report. It was considered by the Council of Natural Resources of Nigeria at its Fifth Meeting held in Lagos last June. As hon.

Members are aware, the Council consists of those Regional Ministers concerned with Natural Resources, together with their administrative and technical advisers. I am happy to say that the Council agreed that the Federal Government should introduce enabling legislation as soon as possible empowering the Governor-General in Council to set up Institutes for the conduct of Natural Resources Research. Detailed consideration is to be given to the implementation of the principles embodied in the Report, and before Institutes are set up there will be the fullest consultation with all the Regional Governments. In view of the complexity of the problem, it is unlikely that any of the Institutes will in fact be established before the 1st of April next year.

Hon. Members may wonder, Sir, why the Bill refers to 'Scientific and Industrial Research' and not to Natural Resources Research. This is because I am advised that natural resources, in the general sense of the term, is accepted as a Regional and not a Federal subject, and therefore the use of the term might be open to objection. The Bill refers to Scientific and Industrial Research by virtue of Item 26 of the Concurrent Legislative List. Hon. Members will notice that Clause 7 of the Bill provides that the Board of an Institute may, with the approval of the Minister, make bye-laws for the control and management of the property and premises vested in the Board. I would like to assure the House that any such bye-laws enacted will, of course, take full cognisance of any Regional enactments already in force.

Hon. Members will be interested to know, Sir, that I propose to reconstitute the Council of Natural Resources. Two bodies will take its place. There will be a National Council for Natural Resources Research, which will consist of the Federal and Regional Ministers concerned. This body will consider policy matters. There will also be a General Scientific Committee, which, as its name implies, will consist of scientists alone. This body will be responsible for the detailed preparation of research programmes, and other scientific and technical issues. My proposal is in accordance with Sir Frank Engledow's recommendations, which may be found at paragraph 45 of Sessional Paper No. 4 mentioned earlier. The detailed constitution of the General Scientific Committee and of the Board of the Research



[THE MINISTER OF RESEARCH AND  
INFORMATION]

Institutes have yet to be worked out in consultation with the Regional Governments, but all Regions have welcomed in principle this proposed reorganisation.

In paragraph 60 of his Report, Sir Frank makes the point that the assessment of the magnitude and nature of practical problems is an undertaking in which, in countries of highly-developed agriculture, the opinion of farmers is regularly made available. He goes on to say that in Nigeria it might be possible to encourage farmers to put forward their views about major problems by forming in each Region a small Agricultural Improvement Committee or, preferably, perhaps one Committee for each main portion of the Region. The essential concern of these Committees should be the practical problems of farming and government agricultural policy would not be within their scope. I consider that this idea has much merit, and I propose to pursue it with my colleagues in the Regions. It might, in due course, be possible to set up a National Farmers Council to co-ordinate the views of the Regional Committees.

This Bill, Sir, should commend itself to all who have the basic welfare of Nigeria at heart. Hon. Members are well aware of my very strong views concerning the vital necessity of improving and increasing Nigeria's domestic production of food. I would only add that the establishment of these Research Institutes is the essential first step in this direction. The research departments have done most valuable work but I think they might have done even more if they had not been so handicapped by staff shortages. In some of our departments we have had as much as sixty per cent vacancies in the research grades, whilst the inter-territorial Research Institutes operating in Nigeria, for instance, the West African Cocoa Research Institute, the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research and the Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research have had no difficulty in attracting staff. There is no doubt in my mind, Sir, that our staffing problems will largely disappear if we convert our research departments into Institutes having conditions of service comparable to those obtaining in the inter-territorial Research Institutes.

I would like to remind Members that agriculture contributes sixty per cent of the wealth of Nigeria and agricultural exports

yield some eighty-five per cent of the foreign exchange which pays for Nigeria's imports. Whatever we can do, therefore, to promote the well-being of our agricultural industry should receive the whole-hearted support of this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move an Amendment to leave out from the word "now" and substitute "be read this day six months." I am opposing the Second Reading of this Bill for so many reasons. Perhaps it may be necessary for me to speak in a manner that will make it quite clear for people to appreciate that I am not opposing this Bill for opposition's sake.

Members will notice that the Government has circulated a Report entitled "Report by Sir Frank Engledow on the Federal Organisations for Agricultural, Veterinary, Forestry and Fisheries Research—Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1959". Without fixing a date to debate this particular Report we find a Bill which is wider in scope entitled "The Scientific and Industrial Research Ordinance, 1959". This Bill is supposed to cover this Report, but what do we notice? I am not saying that the establishment of the Institute is bad. That is not my point. I am saying, Sir, that in the past things have been haphazard, spasmodic, unplanned, unsystemic, just at random.

This is a growing nation. I am sorry to say, Sir, that some of us were not allowed to speak to the Motion tabled by the Government, introduced by the Prime Minister this morning about the achievements of the Government. One thing, Sir, that has happened all along in this country which the inception of Ministerial Government since 1950 has tried to remedy, has been the haphazard manner in which things have been done in this country, and this Bill seems to follow that tradition. Everybody knows, Sir, that to be able to work with the greatest economy to-day in a modern state when under-developed countries have to work to catch up centuries of repression and suppression in order to come to the front line, they have to plan their line of action and then fix priority, because they have not got the financial and



technological resources to be able to meet all their needs. Here when we look at this Bill, look at the definition and going through the whole we find 'The Governor-General, The Governor-General, The Governor-General'. I do not see any place where mention is made of the establishment of any Council, any Council to be responsible for all these Institutes. We are being told here of Research Institutes, they will establish Institutes. What is the nature of these Institutes? We do not know. . . .

**The Minister of Research and Information :** Read paragraph 45 of the Report.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** I am not talking about paragraph 45 of the Report. The Report deals with agricultural, veterinary, forestry and fisheries research. The Bill says Scientific and Industrial Research. In spite of all the Minister may say, there ought to be an overall body that will control the question of research and this Council, Sir, should be able to examine the whole field and to be always there to advise the Government on the needs of the country.

Those of us who have had the opportunity to investigate some of these Departments know what is happening in these so called Research Departments. There is so much discrimination against nationals. They are not allowed to get into the professions to know what is happening. There is no co-operation between these so called research institutions and the University College as the case may be.

**An hon. Member :** How do you know ?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** I know. We had an interview with the Heads of these institutions and examined them. I have the verbatim reports of the questions put to them and answers given to them. I am saying, Sir, that in the past there has been a tendency to use these so called research stations as the centre for people from the United Kingdom universities to come and do something for their Governments. They do not even give the Government their theses to be able to know what they have worked out. And our own people are left out ! It is the duty of the Government to do this. India has done it. Throughout the time when India was under colonial regime, this same thing happened. It was after independence in 1947 that they had a systematised process by which they could use the resources of their

people and let loose an avalanche of people to investigate and work out a system where they have so many institutes in different fields, and to-day you have India as one of the leading countries, if not the leading country, when it comes to under-developed countries. I do not know whether the Minister made any attempt to go to these under-developed countries, not the more advanced territories, to see what they are doing. Our aim should be to see what those who had started before us are doing now to know how we can relate that to our own circumstances, not to look at America or England who have had centuries to do their own.

What we are doing now is piecemeal business. We cannot do that. We want, Sir, a proper White Paper drawn up comprehensively, a paper, Sir, that would be able to provide something concrete. I am asking the Government to withdraw this Bill now and put forward a White Paper to show what the institutions are to do, how many are to be set up in the first instance, its proposals for training Nigerians to work in certain institutes so that they can begin as soon as possible, little by little to gain the experience. We know what discrimination goes on in these Research Departments against Nigerians. We know that once these Departments are converted into these institutes discrimination will be intensified. We must first protect our national interests and our kith and kin in these institutes. Now I say this, Sir, because these institutes will become a kind of protected area. The Minister has said that. It is true that in an independent country where all people in the controlling bodies will be nationals the scientific institutions must have a freehand, just as the people in the Universities and the like. But it will be wrong to say now that they should be so insulated that they will remain in a rarefied atmosphere. There will be no political, commercial and other atmosphere that will affect them.

I want to ask this question. What is it that has produced the change now? Is it an administrative or scientific climate? It is the political climate that has produced this atmosphere. The politicians have seen and have read books. I may not be a scientist but I do read science books. I may not be a research worker in this your research institute but I do read things that are done elsewhere



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]

and when I come to this House I am able to put forward what I have read, or if I visit certain places, what I have seen. I do not need to be a scientist to know that this sort of thing is happening in that territory and therefore it will be good for us if we adopt such and such a thing to meet our own needs. To say that in the Council we are going to have people who are scientists and the rest of them and we are not going to have these people who are not scientists is simply to say that we must wait indefinitely. We need politicians in this Council, that is why I say, we need a Council where not only the scientists, not only the politicians, not only the businessmen but a mixture of scientists, the experts, the politicians who know the temperature of the people and the businessmen who know the dealings required to give comprehensive advice to the Government and the Government, as the brain of the country, will be able to utilise the advice given to them in the light of experience and knowledge acquired both here and in various other countries outside.

Now, Sir, the other point is that the White Paper must show who is to co-ordinate the work of these Institutes. Who is to do that? The Council? You say here "the Governor-General may by order establish institutes for the purpose of scientific or industrial research". But who is going to co-ordinate these things? Is it the Council of Ministers? The Council of Ministers is busy with many things, petitions coming in, money is wanted, Ministers visiting places and so on. Who is going to do that?..

**The Minister of Research and Information :** Read paragraph 45 of the Report.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** That has to do with veterinary, forestry and fisheries research; this has to do with scientific and industrial research. I did science before as you know, and I went quite a long way and I will continue to do it privately to keep in touch with my past experiences and the like. So do not come and tell me that veterinary research is not scientific research. Where is the industrial side of the Bill or the White Paper on the industrial side. Mr Speaker Sir, there is no White Paper on the industrial side of it and we are being told to pass the Bill. Where is the White Paper? Sir, when you take the Estimates of the Department of Commerce and Industries you do find the

research section. There is an industrial research section there. I think I had better not worry about that, we all know that. In India we have the Ministry that controls not only researches but co-ordinate the whole work. We require a co-ordinating body and a Ministry charged with the responsibility of seeing that these researches go on, answerable to the Council of Ministers who are kept well-informed of what is happening and through the Council of Ministers to this House to keep us informed of the progress of research in different fields in this country. You come now and bring to us this kind of piece of paper that does not tell us anything.

I do not say it is not a good thing to have an institute. Let me not be misunderstood. I say, Sir, that this is not adequate to our needs. We do not want a piecemeal thing like this. In four months this country is not going to collapse. When the House adjourns prepare your paper, examine the whole thing, see how you can co-ordinate research in different fields. You go to Commerce and Industries, people to go to Oshodi and say that they are doing research. Nobody knows the result of their work. The other day, I had to go out of my way to look for whatever papers they may have there about research and I found out that they have perfected something on how to preserve palm wine. The Minister of Research and Information cannot give the result of that research to the people, he cannot even tell the people that he has perfected a system whereby you can preserve palm wine to drink and then ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry to see whether they can have money to establish an industry like that to diminish the importation of beer. Why not drink your own wine here? Information you will not give, research you do not do. You do not do anything and then you come and bring this type of paper. Ministry for doing nothing!

Now, Sir, I want to say that in other countries in which development of research is seriously undertaken this work is carried out by a National Council of Research and Industrial Research. I am saying that you should do that. When I say here, Sir, that we want a National Library, some people do not appreciate what I am saying. If we had a National Library, Sir, there would be a regular supply of books. We



would be able to gather information from distant countries. We would be able to have a Library filled with papers and all these aspects of development in different places. I would like the Minister to order this book if he has not read it, "The Development of Scientific Research in India". If you have it in your office you should read it.

**The Minister of Research and Information :** I have read it.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** You have read it ! Is this Bill consistent with that type of thing they are doing there ? Have you not seen the results of the research work there ? As the Minister of Research and Information, he is entitled to accurate information on what is happening elsewhere and we are entitled to be given not crumbs but the real substance.

The Prime Minister in his Motion this morning put forward a catalogue of the various achievements of the Government. I do not want us to go from climax to anti-climax. The graph was going up like that, and now the Minister of Research and Information wants to turn it into an anti-climax. This is not suitable for the needs of the country. In the first place, he has produced something that is a misnomer. He said Scientific and Industrial Research in that and then he tells you to read the report of the veterinary, forestry and fishery research.

Now Sir, I have said that we need a controlling board to be able to co-ordinate all these matters. We need also a careful examination of the various aspects of our society where researches are required. You say you need institutes. You notice in the Bill the word Institute but what Institutes there are, we do not know. They should specify what institutes will be necessary. Then Sir, there is another aspect that we find there. When you pass this Bill now the existing research institutions may be converted to institutes but what do they do ? If the Minister of Research and Information had been working in co-operation with the Ministry of Transport, he would find that in the Railway Corporation they have a research section. They have there a very competent and well qualified Nigerian in that Research Section and he has been doing very good work. Now an attempt has been made to break down that section, they want to hand everything

that that section can do to contractors who have been induced to come out here. Now if this happens, when will our own people have their opportunity to perform these things and get the experience necessary ?

I am saying Sir, that if this Bill is passed now you will find that these people instead of training up our own material, with nobody to keep an eye on them, they will be handing over the research in this or that to external forces and the experience which we would have gained in this country would have been lost. Consequently this Bill must be a comprehensive Bill to establish Institutes that have so many departments, so that immediately you take it you have a clear picture of where you want to go. Now Sir, you find here that everything is in the hands of the Government.

There are certain aspects of this Bill Sir,— I do not know whether Members have been very careful in reading Section 7 of this Bill, *Bye-Laws*. They have taken all the powers from the local councils. Every power that the local council has has been taken away. With your permission Sir I will make reference to that "The Board will make bye-laws to provide for

- (a) controlling the keeping of livestock ;
  - (b) for the seizing and impounding of stray animals and for the recovery of expenses incurred in connection therewith ;
  - (c) for the management and control of pounds and prescribing the powers and duties of pound masters ;
  - (d) for the sale of impounded animals and for the disposal of the proceeds of such sale ;
  - (e) regulating the traffic on any street."
- Now is that research ?
- (f) "Regulating the use by the public of any recreation ground or open space ;
  - (g) regulating the growing of crops ;
  - (h) regulating the installation and operation of sewage systems and soil drainage systems ;
  - (i) for the maintenance of public health ;
  - (j) for the prevention of fires ;
  - (k) prohibiting or regulating the hawking of wares or the erection of stalls on or near any street."



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]

"Bye-laws made under this section may provide that a breach of any specified bye-law shall be an offence and may prescribe as a penalty therefor a fine not exceeding fifty pounds." Is that part of research? You find another Rapson here! They have become Fire Brigade.

So I say, Sir, the Minister, or whoever did this, has not given the Council of Ministers the proper explanation of what research institute may be. Therefore this Paper should be withdrawn. We are not opposed to institutes. We think Government has been doing its best and therefore there should not be an anti-climax here. We are now going seriously to the happy ending. To bring this sort of Paper to soil the record will be the fault of the Minister. There is no need for any official to bring pressure and say put this through because this is a National Government. This is not a good Bill. I do not want to go into detail. I am asking that the Bill should be withdrawn and I want to show why it should be withdrawn. Now, this Bill is lacking in so many respects. Even in this Bill, in their definition of Native land, they only referred to CAP. 105 which deals with Lands in the Northern Region and the Cameroons. There is plenty of land for native rice in the Northern Region and in the Cameroons. There is land for Native Rice Ordinance. Is there any definition of "native mill and dried flour" as such under the Land for Native Rice Ordinance? Why I say this is that if the intention is that this Bill refers to a particular institute situated in a particular area, say so. But to hide it under the cloak of Industrial Research Ordinance and hide your definition of "native land" circumscribed in a particular area without making it applicable to certain areas, I think that is very funny, and the Bill on that ground, should be withdrawn.

Now, Sir, I have said what I want to say on this. There is a lot that can be said about the Bill. I suppose others would like to make their comments on this Bill. As I said before, Sir, I want it to be withdrawn and introduced later on when you have a more comprehensive Bill analysing what we want to do, the various types of research institutes you want to establish, and then the controlling body, the general Council that will control these research institutes. I want to say that I thoroughly

disagree with the Minister in saying when dealing with industrial research, that it is Regional. This is a Federation. It is true that certain functions are Regional, but research cannot be localised. The Regions can perform their own research. But I feel that the Federation should separate their own research and prescribe our own legislation, and, Mr Speaker, when our legislation conflicts with Regional legislation, our legislation should prevail. And in spite of that why should the Minister break up the Federation again?

The Federal Government is the Government of Nigeria; and the Minister begins to tell me in his speech that research work should be localised! We refuse to accept that, Sir, and I am sure that hon. Members here will not accept that sort of thing. The Federation has more money. When the Regions should devote their money to improving other things, surely the Federal Government should take research, should vote more money, and let the Regions draw from the experience and benefits accruing from the Federation. With this, Sir, I move.

*Question proposed, That the word "now" be left out.*

*Sitting suspended : 12.23 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 12.40 p.m.*

*(Mallam Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki, Deputy Speaker in the Chair).*

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion. There is nothing wrong with the provisions of this Bill, and I fully understand the views put forward by my hon Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku. In the first place, Sir, the question of Research which he asked should be taken up by the Federal Government is more or less a constitutional matter and the constitution provides that Research is a concurrent subject. I do agree with him that there must be a sort of body which will co-ordinate the activities of the various research institutions in the Federation; not only that, our research institutions in Nigeria, we hope, will work in close co-operation with the research institutions elsewhere in Africa and other parts of the world.

Sir, this Bill, as I said, has nothing wrong with its provisions and no doubt if this Bill is passed by the House, it will not stop the establishment later on of a sort of body which



will be a strengthened body to co-ordinate the different activities of the different institutes which will be set up.

Another question, Sir, is the question of the training of Nigerians in these research institutes. I fully share the views of my hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku on this. It is most important that in this institute Nigerians must be given every opportunity and the Governments in the Federation must do all they can to encourage Nigerians to take science, because we hope Nigeria will depend upon its own research experts though of course whatever happens we will seek the assistance of research experts from outside. I hope that with these points which I have made, Sir, the House will agree that we shall oppose the Motion and proceed with the Bill.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometimes with due deference to our Government, we used to pass certain Bills contrary to our conscience. We legislators are here to criticise Bills, to ventilate our views on any Bills, and to persuade our Government to make amendments where necessary. I feel that where we legislators on the Floor of this House feel very strongly on an issue that our Government should be sympathetic too with our views. We do not feel that this is an opportune time to introduce any controversial Bills considering the fact that we are on the eve of the end of this House, and in anticipation of a new House. I agree that there are Bills we can pass at the moment but I feel that there may be certain Bills that may have to be deferred in order not to commit the nation unduly.

Our native adage says. "A river in a full flood is unable to carry a log but tries to do so when the flood is gone down." Can that be done? Well, the river of this House is under and we cannot carry the log.

Now the Minister of Research and Information mentioned attraction of our men into a glamorous work.

**An hon. Member** . Yes.

**Chief Onyia** : That is the word. The reason is because our Government give encouragement more to the white collar jobs than to professional and technical work. When we were debating the Gorsuch Report in this House some two or three years ago, I did say

that encouragement was being given more to administrative officers than to technicians and professionals, and once that is done, and is still being done, how are you going to attract a young man to take up such job as the Research work? What I will suggest is that if our Government wants our young men to go into training for technical and professional jobs they should give them attractive salaries. Furthermore.....

**An hon. Member** : They are in training.

**Chief Onyia** : Whether in training or not I am not worried because if attractive salaries are provided it will attract some youngmen to "Research" training. Besides, I had suggested that we should not follow the old track of granting scholarships by interviews. I said, "Go to the Colleges, go to the Schools, find out the aptitudes of our children whilst at school. Ask the principals to keep records of their natural bent of mind and grant them scholarships straightway so that they not do discriminate. But if you allow a child to leave school after he has completed his course he will make a choice himself and you can be sure he is going to choose the clerical job because it is more attractive. But if you give him scholarship whilst still at school to go and study some technical job and so on, he will accept it." I have not seen that the Government has listened to that advice. We have been turning pupils in for interviews and sometimes giving them the jobs for which they are not fit. In fact, what we do is this : we are sometimes just putting a square peg into a round hole. Let me say, Sir, that my views are very strong on this issue. The Bill appears to encourage fragmentation of Research Institutes in the country. The Prime Minister has just said that there is going to be a sort of body to co-ordinate the work of these Research Institutes in the country but this is not contained in the Bill. Coming to the point of these Researches—I want to say that Researches have been going on in this country and will continue to go on but we want researches that will be available as soon as possible for the preservation of our kola-nuts, preservation of our fresh maize, preservation of our palm-wine and researches that will destroy the attack of our crops by beetles.

The Minister of Research and Information mentioned the formation of committees. I do not know how he is going to implement the setting up of these Regional committees. In



[CHIEF ONYIA]

the past the Regional Committees set up did not embrace members of my own political party in the Western Region, although we have been responsible for creating these committees. In the West they have been Action Group Members.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

(*Mr Speaker, Sir Frederic Metcalfe in the Chair*)

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, but for the fact that the Prime Minister has got up to speak on this Bill I would have been one of the very first people to oppose the Bill and to support the amendment moved by the first speaker, hon. Jaja Wachuku, the *Onikoyi of Ikoyi*. The point is that judging from the speech of the Minister and looking at the report on which he has based his recommendation for the introduction of this Bill that is before us and looking at the Bill itself and the contents of the Bill one can say that speech of the Minister does not show actually what is in the Bill nor does it reflect what the report says and the whole thing is therefore a bundle of contradictions. Let me make this clear.

None of us is against the establishment of an institution like this. We all realise the importance of research in a growing country like Nigeria—it is tremendous. But we are making it clear in this hon. Legislature that we support the idea of establishing institutions of this kind. Research institutions are absolutely necessary but we must take into consideration certain things. Some countries have gone before us and they have established research institutes. There are certain countries that are almost as underdeveloped as we are to-day. They started only a few years ago and if we really want to do something why do we not really copy them and build something on the pattern of their own research institutes? Just this morning the Mover of the amendment said that India had done something similar to what we are doing, and if this is true, I think we should look up to India for some sort of guidance. We have been copying from other places.

There is one thing the Minister has said in his speech that there will be a council governing the overall schemes of the research institutes but nowhere in the Bill has this been mentioned. The Bill has been silent about the establishment of the council or the functions of such a council. I think we are right in saying that we do not

understand how this particular Bill can bring out the establishment of a national council since no council has been mentioned in the Bill.

Sir, we do realise that if you set up a research institute you must create an atmosphere under which people will work without any fear of anything. We agree, and we do realise that for research institutes there must be some amount of independence. There must be some sort of autonomous body that can have the air of freedom in order to carry out their research work without any interference from outside. They are scientific people, but, Sir, before we establish such research institutes and give them the autonomy that they deserve, before we make them independent as they should be, we must take into consideration the effect that such institutes will have on the Africans or indigenous natives of the country.

In the first place we all know that very few of our boys and girls have been entering into the scientific field. Only a few days ago I said that some sort of encouragement must be given to our students so that they may take to science. If therefore we would like to do that we must create an atmosphere in our research institutes so that when our students go into such institutes they will feel happy and be able to learn. Otherwise we are creating these research institutes for some expatriates and we are not doing anything to help encourage our own people to go to such institutes.

Only this morning I received a telegram from the African Staff Union at Vom protesting against this Bill, and I am not a scientist; but I must respect the views of such people who have been working on this all the years. These people say that the interest of the African Staff has not been protected and the opinions of the African Staff have not been sought and therefore all the African Staff are not happy. Here is an excellent thing we are doing for the country but because of certain things we fail to take into consideration we are defeating the purpose of the whole thing. If therefore we are establishing these research institutes it is absolutely necessary that we seek the opinions of the African Staff who have been working there for years. It is necessary that we protect the interest of such people and also necessary that we make it a research institute in the real sense of the word. Mr Speaker,



House of Representatives Debates

2057

[Scientific Research Bill :

15 AUGUST 1959

Second Reading]

2058

Sir, when these research institutes are established I know that they have tremendous work to do.

I was saying just this morning that Nigeria is mainly an agricultural country and that such research institutes are absolutely necessary. I fail to agree that agriculture being a regional subject should not be a subject for research by the Federal Government. The Federal Government should be responsible for agricultural research since our economy depends on agriculture. I am saying that when these research institutes are properly established the first thing that they should do is to conduct research into our agriculture ; conduct research into our food crops and see under what conditions they can yield better ; conduct research into our cash crops and see how they can produce ; conduct research into cassava, into our corn, into our millet, into our cocoa and into everything else. We need research into such things. Sir, I would ask that the Government should do everything possible.

I would like to end, by saying that no amount of research will be of any use in this country unless we are prepared to encourage Nigerians to take a keen interest in science because we must create some incentive to attract these Nigerians. I will not call this "a *shaky-shaky* Bill" because somebody has told me that, but I will say it is a good Bill provided that an assurance is given that the opinions of Members on the Floor of this House will be taken into consideration. We would like to see a Bill more dynamic, more bold, more impressive brought to this House ; and I wish to say that, but for the assurance given by the Prime Minister, I would have opposed it vehemently and it would not have seen the light of day. With these assurances I beg reluctantly to support.

**Mr S. J. Una (Uyo)** : I am going to support the amendment for the deferment of this Bill. Mr Speaker, the Bill is seeking to provide for the establishment of a scientific and industrial research institute and this afternoon the Minister of Research and Information misinformed us of the intention of this Bill. As far as I am concerned I am sure that many will agree with me that from the explanation given by the Minister of Research and Mis-Information the Bill is a misnomer. I had thought that the Minister was going to introduce a

Bill which would set up a council for scientific and industrial research for the purpose of stimulating the growth of science in Nigeria and to make it of potential value in assisting Nigerian industries to compete effectively in the world market.

As I said we can only achieve this if the Bill in question has purported to set up a council the members of which will be appointed by the Governor-General on the basis of personal reputation in science and technology from technical departments, from universities and from industry. I have no intention, and I have no wish, to create opportunities for myself, but I want to give this House factual information about what the council for scientific and industrial research should be.

Now, the council for scientific and industrial research should be a body responsible to the Minister who in turn is answerable to this House as in the case of the Canadian and South African Councils for Scientific and Industrial Research. I crave the indulgence of this House to refer to Communist countries and to other democracies. In science we do not pay particular attention to political ideologies. Knowledge knows no boundary and we do everything possible to get knowledge from whatever quarters we find. In science as I have said we gather information from everywhere. Sir, I am rather surprised to hear some Members talking as if scientific and industrial research has no meaning at all. I maintain that scientific and industrial research should be established to provide the Government and also industries in the Federation with basic facilities of modern scientific research. To this end the council should be established, equipped and should operate a number of laboratories for fundamental and applied research. The council should operate in such a way as to offer inducement to industries to conduct their own research and this could be done by way of remission of taxation on research expenditure, direct financial assistance to individual research organisations and the provision of facilities in the laboratories for confidential research sponsored by industrial firms. To ensure rapid utilisation of the results of research going on both locally and abroad the council should establish comprehensive liaison and information services including a central research library and also overseas offices.



[MR UNA]

Lastly to ensure the steady flow of trained research workers the council should establish a system of post-graduate bursaries and research grants to the University College. I should say, Sir, that in my experience the initiative for setting up research groups is taken from universities in other civilised countries and each group normally is led by an outstanding worker in the field who himself is on a permanent staff of the university. I have been engaged myself in scientific research and when we talk of scientific research we mean research in the real sense of it.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** What is the effect of your research ?

**Mr Una :** I have discovered you. In order that research may be properly carried out, research laboratories must be set up and adequately equipped. I know that research entails the process of trial and error. It requires patience and money. A number of National Research Laboratories must be set up to conduct broad programmes of research both fundamental and applied and in providing scientific information essential to the efficient utilisation of the natural resources of Nigeria.

I have in mind, Sir, a number of National Research Laboratories which this Council should set up; namely, a Chemical Research Laboratory; a Physical Research Laboratory; National Building Research Institute; National Institute for Road Research, National Nutrition Research Institute and a National Institute for Water Research.

Now, I will venture to outline the broad functions of this research in order to help the Minister of Research and Information when, in six month's time, he is called upon to present a more comprehensive plan.

The National Chemical Research Laboratory should, in order to prevent duplicity, absorb the existing Department of Chemistry of the Federal Government, and it should have on its research programme a number of research projects which relate to raw materials or potential materials for Nigeria's industry.

The National Physical Research Laboratory should have the responsibility for the maintenance of the country's basic standards of physical quantities (*Interruption*). You do not understand what this means? These quantities may need correction in tropical countries and

we will be contributing our quota to the world's pool of scientific knowledge if we undertake investigations locally. This laboratory will also be equipped to deal with specialised problems requiring the use of physical technique, like X-ray defractions and electror-microscopy and high frequency radiation. We know that France is exploiting the apparent lack of scientific knowledge among the negro races, otherwise France would not be so bold, in spite of protests, France would not be so bold as to continue to explode her nuclear weapon in the Sahara. And I maintain that if the Council to be set up in six month's time would consider setting up a Physical Laboratory where physical research workers would have the opportunity of handling nuclear materials, we shall command the respect of the world.

The acute problem, Sir, in overcoming the critical shortage of houses now, especially with the massive influx of workers into Lagos, Port Harcourt, Enugu and all those other places, should necessitate an institute for the research of our building materials.

Research in Industry, Sir. Mind you, when the Minister of Research and Information told you his own version about research, he was very careful to avoid mentioning research in industry. And yet the title of the Bill is "Scientific and Industrial Research". Nothing was said about industry.

Now, Sir, I know that research in industry is a gigantic problem requiring expensive equipment and the services of trained scientists, and so it ought not to be left to the individual firms. Research of this kind should be organised on a group basis, similar to the research association scheme developed by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Britain and by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa, in Canada and in America, such an association covering labour, paint, fishing, sugar mills and similar industries may be sought.

I now, Sir, come to a very important aspect of a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research must set up information and liaison services both here and abroad. Seeing this country is not blessed with great scientific libraries, such as in Europe and North America, and we know that progress in science



depends on the intelligent solution of problems in the field of scientific and industrial information, this Council, in order to command the respect of every Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in other parts of the world, can benefit from their efforts and discoveries, must share with the Department of External Affairs the Government responsibility for maintaining international relations in science. Scientist liaison officers must be kept in London, in Washington, in Cologne, in Moscow, in Bonn and in Delhi and should be accorded the status of Attaches to Nigeria's diplomatic missions, when Nigeria becomes independent.

I have carefully kept out medical research from the purview of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for obvious reasons. An institute for medical research may, or may not, be part of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. In some countries, the Council does not operate any laboratories of its own on medical research, but rather makes a substantial financial contribution to the work in that field on the advice of the Committee.

Mr Chairman, I have given an outline of what a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research should be. This Bill here as it stands is a very negative and sterile Bill. It does not even give the policies of the institutions it proposes should be set up. We know it as a Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the establishment of scientific and industrial research. There is no direction. Indeed, to call it properly it should be called "A Local Government Bill with a view to dabbling in Agricultural Research"—that should be the proper name for it. I do not see how the dog and the goat and all what-not come into a Bill for industrial and Scientific Research. So I am suggesting, Mr, Speaker, Sir,—I am suggesting very strongly despite the appeal from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will understand that he has the greatest respect from me and from those who share similar opinion, that we regard his opinion and we know that the Prime Minister when he says he is going to look into the matter is a man of his word. Let this Bill be withdrawn, it is a disgrace to our statute book. And when the Minister is ready with the information that we have given and when he wants good advice, let him appeal to us, we are ready to give him advice.

So let him withdraw this Bill for the simple reason that the learned scientist invited from Cambridge if he hears that something of this nature has been introduced in this House and his name is attached to it, would be terribly insulted. And mind you, to have a F.R.S. is not a simple matter. I am quite sure that he never advised the Minister to set up an apology of a Bill of this nature.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. It is seldom that I speak in this House unless it is something of tremendous importance to the Nation like this. I do not stand up just for self-gratification. I am speaking from experience. This is no Bill; do not let the outside world know of it. Even though we have not got learned scientists, there are those of us who can read and are still dabbling in science. This is no Bill for scientific and industrial research and I beg the Government to withdraw it very honourably. In six months' time, they can come back with something more decent and to the point. After all, what is the rush? In a few weeks we shall be out. Those who come back in six months' time, and I will be here again, will support a better Bill. I will be here to support a genuine well-thought-out Bill to set up a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these honest and carefully thought out remarks, which I ask anybody to challenge, I am supporting the motion for deferment of this Bill for six months.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, hon. Members have listened to the speech of the Prime Minister on this Bill. The Prime Minister has promised to look into this Bill and this Government, being the Government of the people, by the people and for the people, we must rely on the assurance of the Prime Minister. You are free to make constructive criticisms but after the Prime Minister has given the necessary assurance hon. Members should support the Second Reading of this Bill and allow the Bill to pass. What you should do here now is to appeal to the Minister to help you to make research into the customary courts in the Western Region so that they may be scrapped. He should also make research into the Chieftaincy matters in the Western Region so that Obas will no longer be deposed.



[MR BENSON]

I am appealing to hon. Members to rely on the assurance of the Prime Minister and allow this Bill to pass through this honourable House.

**M. Jalo Waziri (Gombe)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. In supporting this Bill I must pay tribute to the Government for its proposal to establish Scientific and Industrial Research Institutes. I urge the Federal Government not only to establish the Institutes but also to carry out swiftly its plans towards scientific, agricultural, industrial and cultural research. The Government has done little or nothing in this field and now that it has thought it necessary to do something, something worthy must be done. Anything worth doing at all is worth doing well. There is no better time to do it than now.

It is gainsaying that this country is yet to be born in this field. No matter how little we are able to do now, it must go down into history that we have been able to lay down something of which the future generations will be proud. I must, however, congratulate Mr Awokoya now heading the Emergency Science School in Lagos. But I must remind him that in this atomic age he should drill his boys swiftly to be able to compete with scientists in other parts of the world. This reminds me of France's decision to test her atomic bomb in the Sahara. I am sure France could not have ventured to test her atomic bomb if we had developed our science.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this country has a fruitful soil and vast mineral wealth. Heavy industry covers the production of means of producing machines and other equipment for industry, agricultural and transport, as well as the output of fuel—coal, oil and so on—and raw materials for the manufacture of machinery and everything that production requires. Light industry on the other hand covers the production of means of consumption of foodstuffs, clothing and household articles.

I think, Sir, hon. Members will agree with me that we need both types of industry in this country, for a country can only be regarded as economically independent if it is self-sufficient in the production of all the machinery it needs and does not import it. Without a developed machine-building industry, the country is unable to manufacture agricultural, transport and household machinery that it must possess.

Neither can it manufacture the machinery it requires for modern defence against aggressors. I am not saying that we will go to war to-day or in the near future. What I am saying is that we must not be satisfied with the supply of raw materials and consuming manufactured articles. We must locate our natural resources and develop our technical base. Hon. Members, we must tap our agricultural and mineral resources. We should not fold our arms and expect manna from heaven.

Again, Sir, we hear of tropical diseases. I know for certain that we have tropical medicines with which to cure these diseases. But we have done practically nothing in the way of research to develop tropical medicines. In my constituency (Gombe) we believe we have mineral deposits such as coal, ores and possibly petroleum. The thousands of tin and coal miners thrown out of jobs within the past nine months could have been absorbed into other industries. For instance coal-tar could be manufactured from coal. The millions of pounds spent in purchasing coal-tar could have gone to swell our revenue. What the Government should do now is to appoint immediately a body to survey the country's mineral resources and find ways and means of developing same.

**Mr Speaker** : This is going beyond this Bill.

**M. Jalo Waziri** : Mr Speaker, Sir, we must make every effort towards research in science, medicine, mining, agriculture and industry to promote our health, to promote our economy and to promote our standard of living.

*M. Maitama Sule 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 accordingly and negatived.*

*Original Question again proposed.*

**Mr J. M. Udochi (Afemai)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to put on record the grounds of my dissatisfaction with this Bill. Mr Speaker, this is an enabling bill. Contrary to what most people expected this Bill establishes no institute Scientific or otherwise. It is a Bill that asks us to give a blank check to the Executive to establish institutes in order to spend our money as they like. That is the fundamental principle with which we are quarrelling.



Now, Sir, in the past we have established Corporations and given them all latitude to run themselves. There is a difference in principle between the institute to be established under this Bill if passed into law and the Corporation we have established before. Whilst those corporations are insulated from the control of this House, they have another type of controller which is no less effective; they are controlled by the profit and loss account. If any Corporation begins to make losses that would be a signal for the Minister or this House to step in but the institutes to be established under this enabling Bill are not under any obligation to show profit or loss. They can get grants from this House and they will not be responsible to the House how they spend such grants. While the corporations can be self-sufficient the institute proposed cannot be so.

Clause 3 says the Governor-General may by order establish institutes; what prevents the Governor-General tomorrow from making orders establishing institutes all over the departments and thus deprive you of the control of such departments? We are not legislating for this House; we are legislating for the future Government. If you have a Government which is not as careful in husbanding your affairs as this Federal Government is doing—then such a dangerous Government could come round and say that the little research institute in the Commerce and Industries could be converted into an institute, all the Governor-General will do is to pass an order and it becomes an institute not subject to your control. Not subject to anybody at all. That is the principle in the Bill.

If the Bill is to establish institutes giving us the number and the composition of their boards that is a different thing. You are giving a blank cheque to any future Government to set up these institutes. We have a case in point. You have the Information Service of the Government, but in every Department you have information service with Directors, Assistant Directors and everything. But now you are giving a blank cheque for institutes to be created which could be used any way any day. That is what we are quarrelling with. The principle is that we are being asked to give power to withdraw some departments of this Government from your control. If you need research institutes either one or two or three

we will know where they are. But the Bill establishes no institute; it is only given power to do this and once a mere order is passed by the Governor-General in Council an institute springs up not subject to your control.

You are giving power to people whom you may not know nor do you know how that power may be used, that is the principle involved. This is an enabling Bill. It creates no institute at all but you give power to people to create them, after creating them you have no voice in their management, but your money will be given to them without knowing how this money is being spent. That is the point we are quarrelling with and having put down my views on record you can do what you like with this Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Clause 3.*

**The Chairman :** Mr Wachuku has handed in an amending note which in my opinion goes beyond the scope and title of the Bill and it is proposed to establish a body called the Council. The body will be called a council and over a body superior to the institute which is set up by clause 3. In my opinion that would be going beyond the scope and the title of this Bill which only gives power to establish research institutes which apparently themselves are to be autonomous.

*Question proposed that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** I have given notice to leave out clause 3 (1).

**The Chairman :** It is in order to move an amendment to leave out sub-clause (1).

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** As has been said here, we notice that the Governor-General may by order establish institutes for the purpose of Scientific or Industrial Research. I am asking that this clause be left out. My learned and hon. Friend told you a few minutes ago that that expression, that word alone is just a blank cheque, just like if you take out your cheque book sign the name of somebody and let that somebody fill it in. He may fill the cheque and draw all your money plus debt incurred on



[MR WACHUKU]  
your head. That is exactly what the Minister is asking this House to do now. The Governor-General may by order establish institutes for the purpose of Scientific or Industrial Research.

Now what does it involve. We may wake up one morning and find that our institutes, in fact anything at all so long as the Governor-General says that is an institute, it becomes an institute. There is nowhere in this Bill that this House has any control over anyone of this institute. All that we have to do is to come here in the Budget Session to vote for money and I know I am coming here in January and it will be said that I was a party to the passing of this Bill. And you know it is a most dangerous Bill, dangerous to the cause of the nation, dangerous to the reputation of this House, and dangerous to the ability of the Council of Ministers. In fact, it is a misrepresentation of all that they stood for. And I am saying, Sir, that this particular clause being so dangerous, —as I argued when I was moving the amendment to this Bill, I said here this Bill is ill-conceived. The Minister should have settled down to investigate.

They are supposed to be the Ministry of Research and Information. But from this Bill can anybody believe that there is any research that was undertaken before this Bill was prepared? There was no research at all. Because if this Ministry live up to its name—Research and Information—they should have gone close to investigate, get extracts from people to find out how these things are established, their nature and what goes on and then come round, having got all this information and what goes on elsewhere, they will then come down to Nigeria, visit all sections of the country, know what we need and know what department require intensive Research. Having got these two facts, one on the right and one on the left, they get the over-all picture right in front of them.

Now what do they do? They neither have material on the left hand nor on the right. So a vacuum is created. Now the Government is asking us to give a blank paper and asks us to approve (*Laughter*).

Now, Sir, if this Bill is passed in this House to-day—and I say this very seriously—you will be asked to vote us because you will have these institutes put away in the corner that are use-

less. For instance, we would like to see some of the institutes on mine research. We know we have mines. We have miners, we have people working there at the institute mining research. But there is something tangible and I am sure the hon. Member would have spoken in favour of such institute.

The Minister has to produce something from the source of our wealth in this country, and therefore intensify research and have our minds improved, and we as legislators have to make everything that we do have worth. Those who have read the history of West Africa must have read about Morocco leather. Morocco leather does not belong to Morocco. It is Kano leather. It was passed through the Sahara to Morocco. That is the port from which it passed to Europe from Africa. It is Nigerian leather. There is no Morocco leather.

**The Chairman :** May I ask the hon. Member not to take up time and to say what is relevant to the Bill.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** What I mean, Sir, if this Bill had put up an institute for leather technology or an institute of research we say "yes, that is in accordance with our tradition." I am giving my reasons why I say that this Bill should not be passed. The Government by order may institute any basic institute, they who are in a position to know. These are the institutes that Government have and actually if they are good institutes we will be quite willing to support, because they have received this Report and there is no reason to make research. It is just like somebody going to try to manufacture something. What happens? The natural resources are there. He did not investigate. He started to import and he could not do anything. He had to abandon it totally. I say here that this clause is the most dangerous clause in this Bill.

**An hon. Member :** It is the heart of the Bill.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** If you find it so that is why I am speaking most vehemently to make Members appreciate this amendment before this Bill is passed by this House. It is necessary to amend this clause to make this House have control over the Bill. The Government is not even in a position to certify the institutes they have in mind, but this clause 1 must be deleted. There is no plan. What reply will the Minister



House of Representatives Debates

2069

[Scientific Research Bill :

15 AUGUST 1959

Committee]

2070

give us ? There is no plan here, Mr Chairman (*Applause*). There is nothing here. No one can say exactly what is in the mind of the Council of Ministers, no one. It is a vicious Bill that baffles all understanding. We are called in this House to speak and look with our eyes wide open and our mouth open not to come here and pass a Bill that has no plan.

**The Chairman :** The hon. Gentleman is not speaking on points relevant on this clause.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Mr Chairman, Sir, if we are told that the Governor-General in this clause means Governor-General in Council, everybody knows that and in any way any one in the Ministry who advises the Minister will bring all sorts of argument to convince the Minister—and you see the Minister must have confidence in his principal officers. What can he do ? He brings it to the Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers will ask, “Are you sure all is well ?” and he would say “yes.” That is the way I consider this particular clause must be amended. We have also an institute of Oil Palm Research.

**The Chairman :** I do not think it is necessary. This is beyond the scope of this amendment to discuss the various institutes which could be of any use to this debate.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Mr Chairman, Sir, this Bill, this special clause 1, is the brain, is the heart, is the whole structure upon which this Bill is made (*Applause*).

*And it being 2 p.m. the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again, pursuant to the Resolution of the House yesterday.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress : to sit again upon Monday next :

*And it being after 12 noon, Mr Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (10).*

*Adjourned at one minute past two o'clock.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Monday, 17th August, 1959

The House met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Mr Speaker :** The Consul-General of Liberia has just returned from visiting Liberia and has brought a gift of books to be presented to this House. They are four volumes of "The Code of Law of Liberia, 1956" and they come to this House with greetings from President Tubman, Speaker Henries and the Government of Liberia. I will make, if I may, a suitable reply to the President.

## PAPERS

**Mr Speaker :** The following paper, already distributed to Members, is deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Second Report of the Federal Public Service Commission for the period 1st January, 1958 to 31st December, 1958.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**O.188. Mr S. F. Nwika** asked the Minister of Research and Information whether, in view of the importance of the Independence Celebrations on 1st October, 1960, he will cause Rediffusion facilities to be provided at all Divisional Headquarters, so that people there may follow the celebrations.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Research and Information :** It is recognised that broadcasting facilities should be made available on the widest possible scale in order to ensure that the Independence Celebrations are adequately publicised. But it is not considered that this would best be achieved by means of radio distribution service as suggested by the hon. Member. The cost of providing the necessary studio equipment at each Divisional Headquarters and of linking up subscribers by overhead line would be prohibitive.

In view of the wide availability of cheap and efficient radio receivers, Government considers that medium wave broadcasting is preferable to wired broadcasting as the best and most economical means of developing listening

facilities in Nigeria. The N.B.C.'s. present plans include the provision of medium wave transmitters to cover additional centres of dense population.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

## THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL LINE

**The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :** I had proposed to make a statement on the Nigeria National Line Limited in the Committee of Supply but since I had no opportunity of doing so, I would now crave the indulgence of the House to say a few words about this venture and to lay the facts, free of rhetoric, before this honourable House. In the past two or three months there has been considerable press comment on this subject, most of which I am sorry to say was ill-informed and confused. The National Line is a national enterprise affecting the well-being of the thirty-five million people of Nigeria whose overall interests must prevail over the interests of a few Nigerians personally interested in shipping, as well as over the interests of any section of this country. I can assure the House that in the establishment of the National Line the overriding factor was not what would please certain individuals or a certain section of the country but rather what would be in the best interests of the nation as a whole. (*Applause*).

At the last meeting of this House I said that owing to the size of the funds available the National Line would start with three ships, but Members will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that by the end of this year the National Line will be operating six ships (*Applause*). Three of these will have been purchased and paid for and three will be on charter. Next year the number will increase to eight and in 1961, to ten. The first three ships have been named respectively the *Dan Fodio*, the *Oduduwa* and the *King Jaja*. As hon. Members are aware these are names of special significance in the history of Nigeria. The National Line has thus made a very good start and should be allowed to thrive.

In forming the National Line the Federal Government had three main objectives in view. The first was to obtain for Nigeria a share in the shipping industry and to teach Nigerians the skills necessary for its operation. The



second was to acquire for Nigerian interests the controlling share in the business. Finally the Federal Government was anxious to ensure that the technical partners in the venture made a substantial capital investment in it to ensure its success. These three objectives have been realised in the Articles of Association on which the Line has been formed. A great deal of unnecessary mystery has been conferred by certain sections of the Press on these Articles but in fact there is no mystery at all. The Nigerian National Line is a company registered in Nigeria under the Companies Ordinance and any Member of the House or of the public can read them for himself if he chooses to apply to the Registrar of Companies and to pay the prescribed fee of one shilling. So there is nothing to hide about the Articles of Association on which the Line is operating.

Now, hon. Members must have heard that the National Line has joined the West African Lines Conference. Some may wonder why the Federal Government agreed that the National Line should enter the Conference. I have to say that in taking this decision the Federal Government had the support of all the Regional Governments whom it formally consulted at the meeting of the National Economic Council. I have no doubt whatever that the decision was a right one. The Conference system is common to all the main ocean routes of the world; in India, the Far East and on the North and South Atlantic and so on. In the foreign trade of the United States of America there are five passenger Conference Lines and over one hundred freight Conference Lines. The National Lines of the free countries of the world including those of Ghana and of India, Pakistan, etc., have joined these Conferences. The Nigerian National Line has therefore done nothing unusual in joining the Conference which is operating in this area.

It may be asked why Shipping Lines organise themselves into Conferences. In general the advantages of the Conference system lie in the provision of regular scheduled sailings and in the provision of ships suited to the trade and in stabilising freight rates so that both the liner operator and the Merchant ashore can plan their business with reasonable confidence. Without such arrangements the shipping industry might find itself in a chaotic condition.

These are important reasons in themselves but in our own case there were two additional reasons. First, by joining the Conference the National Line has been able to secure an immediate and fair share of the cargo which will ensure a profit even at the end of its first year of operation, and this profit can be ploughed back into the business for its further development. Secondly, the National Line is able to exercise, as the Black Star Line of Ghana already does, a voice in the deliberations of the West African Lines Conference. Here I would like to remind hon. Members that in practice the decisions of the Conference are expected to be unanimous so that every member has a voice.

It is often supposed that the West African Conference consists of Elder Dempster Lines, and the Palm Line but this is not the case. There are nine members at present, namely, the Elder Dempster Lines Limited, the Holland West Africa Line, Palm Line Ltd., Guinea Gulf Line Limited, the Woermann Line (that is a German Line) Limited, the Scandinavia West African Line, the Hoegh Line (that is Norwegian Line), the Black Star Line of Ghana and the National Line of Nigeria. These are the nine members.

Now references have been made at different times to what are termed indigenous Shipping Lines. The Government no doubt welcomes the appearance of indigenous shipping lines in Nigeria, but I think it is my duty to warn the House that this attractive phrase can be used to provide a mere cover for foreign shipping operators. It is a simple matter to set up a shipping agency in Lagos and register its name as a shipping line while the ownership of the ships and the control of policy rest firmly in the hands of foreign companies. The National Line of Nigeria is a genuine Nigerian line. The final say in the policy of the Board rests with Nigeria. The bulk of the capital is held by Nigerian interests; the ships are largely manned by Nigerians, both officers and crew, while they carry cadets-in-training for both deck and engineering posts. Hon. Members can rest assured that the Federal Government will always regard with sympathy any genuine indigenous line established in Nigeria. I can claim, Sir, with every confidence that the National Line is not only Nigerian but is also National in the true sense of the word, because the Regional Marketing Boards, are share-



[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]  
holders in that Company. I would like to point out that the allocation of the Marketing Board produce which has been the bone of contention is not the responsibility of the Minister or Ministry of Transport. It is the duty of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Board, for which my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, is answerable to this House.

As I told hon. Members at the last meeting our technical partners were chosen because they made better offers to us regarding capital contribution and the management of the Board of Directors than any other shipping company did. Besides it was obvious that they would offer the best training facilities for Nigerians. On the "Dan Fodio" during its maiden voyage, out of a crew of forty-five, thirty-one were Nigerians (*Applause*), including the Second Mate, two Engineer Officers, a Writer and two Cadets. On the "Oduduwa" out of a crew of forty-four, twenty-nine are Nigerians, two of them being Cadets. The Nigerian National Line has undertaken as a primary duty the training of Nigerians as navigating and engineering officers (*Applause*), and shore management staff. The operational Agency Agreement will, in the first instance, run for six years, but may be terminated thereafter and may be renewed only from year to year so that our hands are not tied at all. (*Applause*).

The Nigerian National Line like every member of the Conference entered into an Agreement on joining the Conference. (*Interruption*). I am quite sure that my hon. Friend the Minister of Commerce and Industry is taking note of what you are saying. This Agreement is purely a commercial document (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker Sir, this part of my statement answers the point which was formerly raised by my hon. Friend, Jaja Wachuku. This Agreement is a purely commercial document which does not create any obligation on behalf of Nigeria. The Legislature may legitimately insist on being informed of international commitments assumed by the Government of the day, such as a treaty or an international convention to which the Government subscribes. (*Interruption*). Members will agree that it will strike at the root of normal commercial dealings in this country, and elsewhere, if we once allow the practice to grow up of ordering private confidential, commercial docu-

ments to be laid on the Table. I can assure the House that the agreement entered into by the National Line is a normal commercial document dealing with such matters as sailing schedules and freight and does not create any obligation on behalf of Nigeria.

Finally, Sir, I appeal to all hon. Members and indeed to the whole country to be proud of their achievement in establishing the National Line within the present Economic Programme and before the date of independence in October 1960, a task which was considered impracticable fifteen months ago (*Hear, hear*). Nigeria should feel justifiably proud of her National Line just as Ghana is of hers, even though the technical partners control the Board of Director of the Black Star Line. I want to assure the House that the National Line has been established on very sound business principles, and is sure to make a substantial profit even at the end of its first year of operation. (*Hear, hear*).

#### THE RIVER NIGER BRIDGE

**Mr Speaker :** The Minister of Works wants to make a statement on the River Niger Bridge.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): The House has already been informed by my colleague, the Minister of Finance, that good progress has been made towards the building of a bridge over the River Niger (*Hear, hear*). This news has been warmly welcomed by the House and I am gratified by the many expressions of pleasure that have been made by Members on all sides. To-day, I am happy to be able to inform the House that we have reached the point which places us within striking distance of starting on the actual work of construction.

On Saturday in my Ministry there took place a modest, but important, ceremony. It was my pleasant duty to sign on behalf of the Federal Government the draft Heads of Agreement and Conditions of Contract with the nominated contractor, Messrs Taylor Woodrow (Nigeria) Ltd. This document provides the framework within which the nominated contractor's tender will be drawn up, and it also sets out the principles on which the financing of the contract will rest. The document is not at this stage contractually binding on the Federal Government nor on the nominated contractor, and I wish to assure the House that the contractor's tender will be



carefully scrutinised in accordance with usual tender procedure before it is accepted. The document does, however, provide, on both sides, evidence of good faith and of intent to proceed with negotiation up to the stage when the contractor will submit a *bona fide* tender to the Federal Government. As such it is an important and essential step forward in the process of entering into a contract of this nature.

Because the Federal Government may be entering into similar contracts for other major projects, I do not think that it would be in the public interest to disclose at this stage the full details of the financial arrangements into which the Federal Government proposes to enter with Taylor Woodrow. Suffice to say for the present that the financial side of the negotiations has been carefully scrutinised by my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance, and that payments will be spread over a period of years in such a way that the resources of the Federation will not be over heavily taxed in meeting the cost of this vast undertaking. I hope that in the near future a model of the bridge will be available for Members of this House to examine. In the meantime, I must try with mere words to give a picture of the mighty structure involved.

The bridge will be a high level bridge, constructed of steel truss girders with no less than eight spans. At each end it will be flanked by smaller four span composite girder bridges and will be provided with impressive embankments and approach roads. One of these will connect the western end of the bridge with the centre of Asaba, while the other will run through the southern parts of Onitsha. Underneath the bridge there will be a clearance of 74 feet for the purposes of navigation. The overall length of the bridge is more than three quarters of a mile, and it will be one of the longest bridges in Africa. Perhaps the House will have a clearer picture of the distance involved when I say that the Niger Bridge will be over twice as long as the Carter Bridge at Lagos.

In the grandeur of its natural setting it will provide a spectacle of which Nigeria can be justly proud. It will be a memorial to those, both within this House and outside, who have urged its construction so zealously and for so long. More still, it will stand as a lasting tribute to this Government which has turned the dreams and wishes of the people into concrete reality (*Hear, hear*).

**Dr E. O. Awduche** (Onitsha): Will the Minister assure the House and the country that the nature of the agreement will not provide a dangerous hitch that may cause unnecessary delay in getting this work done like the Benin-Ijebu-Ode Road?

### NOTICES OF MOTION

[CUSTOMS TARIFF (DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS)]

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I rise to move That in accordance with section 7 (2) of the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1958, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 4) Order, 1959 (Legal Notice No. 176 of 1959), a copy of which was laid before this House on 15th August, be confirmed.

Sir, this Order relates to two amendments, the first of which concerns the exemption from import duty of goods for the official use of the United Kingdom Ministry of Works and the Commonwealth Relations Offices in Nigeria. This amendment becomes necessary because the United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Nigeria has hitherto dealt with such official imports and these were exempted under item 45 (1) of the Second Schedule to the Customs Ordinance. As independence approaches, however, the increasing volume of goods and materials is required for the construction and establishment of a High Commissioner's Office and Residence in Lagos and the Deputy High Commissioner's Offices and Residences in the Regions. Responsibility for importing these goods has changed hands with the result that this amendment is needed. Hon. Members will appreciate that such an exemption is the normal diplomatic privilege granted by Governments and it is essential that the High Commissioner's Offices and Residences should be completed by October 1960.

The second amendment extends to the Commissioner of the Cameroons a privilege already granted to Regional Governments. Under the new constitutional arrangements the Commissioner of the Cameroons has increased responsibility. Owing to the Southern Cameroons Regional status he now has to entertain important visitors on the same scale as Regional Governors. It is therefore only reasonable that the exemption from duty of goods intended for his use should be extended to him.



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

Mr Speaker, Sir, here again is the finalisation of another system which gives us our status as an up and coming independent country and I am sure that all sides of this House will welcome it as essential for our future diplomatic relations.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is necessary for me to bring to the notice of the Minister of Finance under this Motion the fact that these exemptions from duty are becoming too many. There is a tendency for these commercial people to use materials that are supposed to be exempt from duty to pass them to other commercial channels. I have in mind the exemption connected with the building of the new hotel over there. I do not know whether this is true but I would like the Minister to investigate that. Some of the cement and other materials are being passed to some other channels and if that is correct it is detrimental to the revenue of this country.

The other thing I want to say is that while we are talking of exemption from duty I would like to say that the number of resignations in the Customs and Excise is alarming. In Customs in particular, Nigerians who are in this department are resigning every month and this month August there has been no less than about nine of them and the result is. . . . . (*Interruption*).

**Mr Speaker** : I would like to relate your speech to the question of exemption.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** : The result is that there is natural exemption from duty in saying that a lot of goods coming into the country are not examined owing to shortage of staff and they are passed just to clear the warehouse and the country loses its revenue. I would like the Minister to close this gap.

**The Minister of Finance** : There is only one point that I would like to reply to and that is the allegation about exempted goods being channelled to other sources. All I can say is I will cause it to be thoroughly investigated.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved* : That in accordance with section 7 (2) of the Customs Tariff Ordinance 1958, the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 4) Order, 1959 (Legal Notice No. 176 of 1959), a copy of which was laid before this House on 15th August be confirmed.

## TOURIST INDUSTRY

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, That this House approves the policy proposed by the Government in Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1959 on the promotion of the Tourist Industry in Nigeria.

Last August I told the House that a committee had been set up to study the ways and means of promoting the tourist industry. The Sessional Paper now before the House summarises their recommendations and has done what the Government intends to do. I feel sure, therefore that there is no need for me to attempt to summarise it. We want people to visit Nigeria not only to spend their money but to get to know us and our ways of life. We must therefore act as good hosts, give them comfortable accommodation and good food ; make it easier for them to see interesting things about our country. So we want good hotels, extensive publicity, efficient transport services and good organisation on an all-Nigeria basis. When they find us interesting and hospitable perhaps they will consider investing more of their money in our country for the development of our people and for the increase of their profits.

Now how we propose to do this is also set out in the Sessional Paper. I invite hon. Members' attention to the proposal for setting up a co-ordinating body on the lines of the British Travel and Holiday Association. This will be open to all who have direct or close connection with the Tourist Industry. If this meets the support then my Ministry will take steps to bring it about quickly.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Hon. Victor Mukete) : I beg to support.

*Question proposed.*

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the idea of starting a tourist industry in Nigeria is welcome. It is important at this stage of our development to make it possible for people that are coming from the outside world to see some of our achievements in the past. We have got a lot of things that we had achieved long before the Europeans came to this country. Our country was very



important, very many years before the white-man set his foot on our soil people from other parts of the world came to this country and they came for certain things. I have in mind the ancient walled city of Kano where the ancient looms that used to produce the world famous Kano cloth exist and where there are numerous leather works that can be seen by outsiders when they come. All these may not be possible unless the Government is prepared to build an excellent hotel in Kano, and this I am asking the Government to do when they are establishing this Tourist Industry.

**Mr C. C. Mojekwu (Onitsha)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, while welcoming this proposal I would like to call the attention of the Minister responsible to the fact that it would be in the best interest of the country that good hotel facilities should be provided in all Regional headquarters. I notice that the amenities which they are likely to provide will consist of Lagos, Jos, Kano and Buea, but I suggest that places like Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu and ports like Port Harcourt and other historic places should also be considered.

We are bound to have visitors who will visit regional headquarters and will make contacts with the regional governments. In the Eastern Region there is also a particularly picturesque area—the Obudu Highland—where the Federal Government ought to consider to build a real first class hotel both for tourists and for hotel holiday makers. Without really being personal I think that Onitsha should be considered too. I would also like the Federal Government to consult the Regional Governments and see whether they can modify the Liquor Ordinance in the various regions if there is going to be a real tourist industry in order that the hotels get adequate drinking facilities.

One last point I would like to make and that is a note of thanks to the Minister responsible for the foresight in realising that a Tourist Industry is yet new in Nigeria and the Ministry is prepared to consider bringing in better hands and technical help from abroad to help in this very important industry. This Motion is welcome and we give it all the blessing it deserves.

**Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, if this half-man and half-bird will allow me to speak, I would like to say that it is a pleasure indeed to speak on this Motion because the

Minister who has moved it is an honest man. I am saying that because the tourist trade is a very important industry in any developing country and it is wise that, at this moment, although it is rather late coming, it is wise that this should be one of the last acts of this Government. It is very important that our country should be known by the outside world, by what we are, that other people should come here from time to time and go back home with good news about Nigeria.

I noticed in the Paper here that the Government is very realistic about it because one of the mightiest problems is the problem of accommodation and it is no use talking about tourists coming to Nigeria if when they come here they get stranded and they have no decent place to go to. I think it is the duty of this Government to try and encourage hotels to be built all over the country in various places in the Regions because without proper accommodation it is impossible to attract any decent man from abroad with the money to spend in this country to come over to see us, and I hope it will be possible, if necessary with the co-operation of the co-ordination bodies to be set up in the Regions, that the Government of the Federation should be able, together with the assistance of Regional Governments, to subscribe money for the erection of first-class hotels, at least one in every Region. I think that is the only time we can ever hope to attract tourists because I must say, with great respect to hotel owners particularly in the Regions, that it hardly possible to come by any decent hotel in the Regions, and it is no use our shouting for tourists to come to Nigeria if we have no accommodation for them. I think in that respect Lagos is just about the best place in Nigeria. I would urge very strongly that this matter should be taken up with the Regional Governments to see to it that proper accommodation is provided in the Regions.

I notice in this Paper also that about four centres are to be selected first, as usual by way of experiment. It is said that Lagos, Jos, Kano and Buea will be selected. There is no place anywhere in the Eastern Region selected. I think we should make this thing uniform and I suggest there are two places to be considered in the Eastern Region. I would suggest that Obudu which has beautiful and lovely scenery could be developed; you have cattle ranches there, and there is quite a lot to see at Obudu.



[DR UDOMA]

There is another place which should be a very local place for a holiday, that is Bonny, although I feel that the oil trade is going to spoil that place very soon. I think Bonny which is just by the Atlantic will be an ideal resort for tourists. To come nearer home I see no reason why Calabar should not be selected.

I have examined the Eastern Region and I know that Obudu would be a first-class place and I hope Government will consider that. Bonny, of course, for health reasons will be a very good place indeed. I know it is not possible to start at all these places at the same time but so long as they are put on the list for the consideration of Government it will meet with my satisfaction.

The other point I would like to mention about this Paper is that like everything else in Nigeria one of the handicaps facing businessmen in the country is managing personnel—managers. It is one of the very serious problems facing the country. There are people with money and there are people with the will even to start business, but they always come up against one serious problem, getting the managerial staff. It is, of course, good that we should have foreigners to come and help us to start these things, but the question of training our own men to be able to take over at a moment's notice becomes paramount, and I hope that when arrangements are made selection will be made of the best personnel to represent this country in the scheme of running hotels and running the whole tourist trade.

Another point is that while it is a very good thing and, indeed, a necessity that we should have foreign know-how and also possibly foreign investment in this tourist trade, we hope—and I emphasise this—we hope it will be possible to avoid the sort of thing which has happened with the shipping line. For instance, this morning we have been told of the Heads of Contract signed, but when the shipping line agreement was concluded we were never told anything about it.

**Mr Speaker :** I do not think it is necessary for the hon. Member to hark back to that now.

**Dr E. U. Udoma :** I think it was very clever to come by the backdoor.

However, I would like to say that I support the policy enunciated in this Paper wholeheartedly.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion and while doing so I would like to make a few observations.

In the policy Paper, certain places have been specifically mentioned. In this House most of us have been crying to see that certain industries which are being carried out in rural areas should be improved. So what we say is that, if the tourist industry is only concentrating all its activities in the already improved areas, it means that we are only improving the improved areas and leaving the rural areas behind, so that will not help the country at all. The tourists should go into the rural areas in order to help the people there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in my area I have a very big industry going on, and there has been a Motion made in this House that this industry should be encouraged. (*Interruption*).

**Several hon. Members :** What industry ?

**Mr Speaker :** Really it is quite irrelevant to discuss just what the existing or proposed industries are in Nigeria, apart from this one tourist industry.

**Mr Ezonbodor :** What I was trying to point out is that the tourist industry should be extended to the rural areas, particularly to this special area. There is some tendency to discriminate against people coming into this country.

I would like to point out that there is some valuable scientific experience which Nigeria can gain from the Continent, so that people who are going to compose the tourist industry should represent all parts of the country in order that we should have that benefit.

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Motion. The only point I want to express in addition to what Members have said is about the roads where these tourists will go. Our roads should be carefully prepared before their arrival and I would like to add that the Pot Industry in Ilorin Division should be visited by the tourists when they arrive.

Sir, I beg to support.



**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not very often that I stand in this House to praise any Minister after he has produced a White Paper. I think, Sir, at this Session of the House everybody will agree that this Paper is opportune and produced by the Ministry under the control of our very nationalistic and able the hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, who commended it to the Members of this House and to the country.

There are two comments I want to make with regard to the Paper. My friends have already commented on some aspects. I think, Sir, now that we want to start our tourist industry a proper survey of the areas that will be of interest to tourists must be made, and that survey must include all sections of the country. My friends mentioned Obudu. Obudu is not only good for scenery but as a health resort. In fact, I think it is better than Jos, the climate is very temperate and you have a cattle ranch there. You have butter, fresh milk, fresh eggs and all the meat produced there. People visiting there will just go when they want fresh milk and they will have it, eggs, vegetables, butter and fresh everything. The establishment of a tourist centre in Obudu would help my hon. Friend, Mr Takon, to get his road tarred quickly.

My Friend has mentioned Bonny. Sir, I want to point out that a place like Abonnema will be another very beautiful centre for this reason. Anybody who has been to Abonnema and Degema and seen the water there will agree it is a beautiful scene. Tourists will like the place, they will go and relax, where they will have boating and so on. We must make maximum use of our water with which we are blessed in this country. Degema and Abonnema must also be considered in this respect, not forgetting the beautiful Oguta Lake which can be developed.

I know my Friend over there is smiling because I have an interest there, not monetary or anything like that.

Then Lagos, itself, that capital. Those who have watched the development that is going on around us will see that the Cowrie Creek is becoming really one of the waters that would be very useful in the near future. You see all the expatriate civil servants over the weekend boating in Cowrie Creek and along Queens Drive.

With the reclamation going on and parliament building and the development of Victoria Island, we know exactly what is likely to happen. The little islands surrounding Lagos can be made use of so that the capital of Nigeria as you come by air or ship, as the case may be, will be found a capital really worthy of a great country, and I hope the Minister in his survey will try to see to it that the fullest use is made of the water that we have. There are many countries which have not got such assets for tourist industry.

Sir, coming to the question of training personnel. I would like the Minister to ask for a special scholarship—a special scholarship for this purpose. In awarding that scholarship, there should be categories. There are some of our people who are already in the tourist industry in the hotels. Some of these stewards in the hotels, are really very good; they do the work although they have expatriate officers above them, but a lot of them are extremely good already. We have the material, Sir, and the Minister should investigate the possibility of selecting a number of them and giving them further training. In that scholarship there will also be a selection of younger men and women who will be interested in training. I do not think it will take more than a year or two to get people trained in connection with this.

Now, Sir, there is a clause here—with the greatest deference to my friends, the English, and those who have been associated with this—talking about the constitution and finance. Page 4 says “If the highly successful British model were adopted, the organisation would not be” . . . . and so on. I want to say this, in an hotel business the English model is not necessarily the best. I think France, Switzerland and Italy, these areas, particularly Switzerland and Italy, live by hotel and tourist industry. And to mention cooks, English are not good cooks, so when you are sending people you will send scholars to the United Kingdom so as to know the English cooking. Some should go to Switzerland, some should go to Italy and Japan and so on, and some people should go to China. I see some Members here smiling. I know how during the Constitutional Conference a lot of us went to Chinese restaurants. So I would like the scholarships to be awarded in such a way that you have a mixture, so that you have a cross-section of the areas where you have these things,



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]  
particularly in the countries where the people definitely live by the tourist industry and therefore have developed a high standard in this particular respect.

Now, Sir, in Clause 21 of this Paper—Local Transport Facilities—it says “Motor transport firms have already organised car-hire facilities in the leading towns”. I want to say, Sir, that they are too expensive. The car-hire system which has been instituted by some of these firms who are also motor agents in this country are too expensive. In considering this, the Agency must institute the type of system that you have in England and other places that will be reasonable so that from the volume of the people who patronise it you can make up for the low or moderate costs. At the moment it is too expensive.

I also want to congratulate the Minister on Clause 26. I notice that the membership and control, under this clause, is very wide and the source from which membership of this controlling body would be drawn is very wide and comprehensive. Although people interested directly with the hotel trade will be there, yet there is a field spread out all over to draw all sorts of experience in order to make the industry a success.

Now, Sir, as has been said in this paper, the tourist industry has so many advantages. There is the monetary side of it, there is the question of putting Nigeria on the map. The best way to put Nigeria on the map is to bring people here to see Nigeria. When tourists come here they will meet Nigerians, talk to them, associate with them, see them as they are, not as Hollywood sees them. As the Information Section of the Ministry has been so indolent in not publicising this country sufficiently, I think with the tourist industry now these people will wake up from sleep and begin to think fast. They do nothing except to bring the “Illustrated London News”. That is what the Information Section of this country sends to people. What you want is to produce the culture of Nigeria, the colour, the simple life of the people, their everyday activities, not somebody going to Ibadan market and seeing one particular section of it alone, take a photograph of that and then show it on television.

I saw something in London during the London Conference. It was horrible, the type

of things they do there. They went to an area where they had the skulls of animals and things like that, and that was what was presented as Nigeria. So with the tourist industry here people will be able to see the new features of this country to counterbalance the false propaganda that they put out. We do not claim that Nigeria is a perfect country: there is no perfect country in the world. They all have their bad areas and they are always very careful to put them out of the public sight. We should also do the same thing. If you want to see the worst side of Nigeria, come here and when you spend money and see the worst side of it you balance your money and empty your pocket.

So, Sir, I want to close my remarks by saying that apart from anything else, as my Friend the hon. Olarewaju has said, tourism will not be successful if the means of communications are not good. The roads to all these nooks and corners must be such as will make it convenient for a tourist to go and come back to his destination. And then tourists will like to have quick communication by telephone. It is no use when you ring and ring for five to ten minutes and nobody answers you and when you get an answer you are told there is up to twenty-four hours' delay. The telephone and telegraph systems must be improved. The Minister of Communications and Aviation must see to that. All these things are co-ordinated. Also, our trains should not be as dirty as they are; our trains must be clean. People from clean countries and whose people are decent will like to travel in decent trains, and not go and put cattle and dogs and everything there.

So in the tourist industry, Sir, the Ministry of Works is involved, the Ministry of Transport is involved, the Minister of Commerce and Industries is involved, and the Minister of Communications and Aviation is involved, and the Ministry of Research and Information in particular must wake up. His staff are just asleep. They went to sleep since 1952 and are still sleeping. I am sure this Paper will enable them to wake up and when I come back in January in this House I will see that the whole Department is dismissed and other people put in their place.

Sir, with these remarks, I whole-heartedly support this White Paper which is really a good Paper, and I wish the Minister success in his



enterprise and hope that he will return to continue with the good work.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank Members for the constructive suggestions which were made on the White Paper and all these will be taken into consideration. As I have already said, the tourist industry is an all-Nigeria business. The Regional Governments must be taken into consideration and all the affected Ministries will have to be consulted so that there will be co-ordination in the work.

May I refer to Clause 6 (e) of the Paper—“Government accepts the principles which the Committee has laid down, but considers that other places in the Eastern and Western Regions should also be examined as possible tourist centres”. Sir, there was a tendency at other times that Nigeria is developed if only people concentrated in one particular area or Region. We do not share this view. The whole of Nigeria should go forward or fall together. Anybody, whatever he may be, trying to play on us will not have an easy time. . . . (*Hear, hear*) . . . I thank Members for all they have said and all these things will be taken into consideration.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are very grateful to the Government for bringing this Bill on the eve of independence. This is one of the Bills that ought to have come very much earlier. I should think that its delay in the past has been contributory to the delay of self-government, because when you know nothing of the people except through what officials and some missionaries tell them overseas it is impossible to form the right judgment. One of the ways that self-government has been delayed in this country and in other territories too has been the false representation abroad such as has been mentioned to-day. Some of us have every reason not to like the Syrians and Lebanese, but when you visit them in their own home country and see what industry has enabled them to do and why it is that they have become roamers on the face of the earth because of the inhospitality of their climate and the barrenness of their soil, (for after all it is only a narrow valley of about four miles in width that feeds the whole of Syria and Lebanon). There is intensive agriculture here, but on the hilltops what do you find? Just

craggy hilltops, and yet farmers are trying to grow olive gardens! When you see that kind of thing, you see the stuff that has made the Syrians and Lebanese what they are.

The same could apply to us here and you would not expect to find too many tourist centres there except to old monuments. But is you saw what they have made of the centres that they have got, you would marvel. For example, we took an aeroplane journey to visit a few cedars. You know the cedar is the emblem of Lebanon. Now, a cedar is a cedar. When I was asked to come and see a cedar, I said I have seen mighty trees back home and I am not going to come thousands of miles just to go and look at a tree. But the tourists all over the place were spending money for aeroplane journeys to go and see a few surviving cedars. Also they were showing the old Roman Amphitheatre. Have we not got historic centres in this place? That is why I say this Paper is very welcome and it is very far-sighted of the Government to bring it at this stage. I would only remind the Committee that are going to work this to add to the suggestions that have already been made that the waterside areas of this country naturally lend themselves to the Tourist Trade.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Yes, Ijebu Waterside.

**Chief Solaru**: The riverside areas of this country also call for attention. The forest and the savannah they also have their attractions. I was born in this country but I have all along until a few years ago a circumscribed life, living in the South, until I went up North and I saw as we emerged from the forest areas into the grassland, the expanse of the horizon is breath-taking. When you land at Liverpool and you are being taken to London, you pass through the quiet countryside and the green fields, the cattle grazing and chewing the end, all that enters into your impression of what England really is. And so all that has been said to-day are hints that are linked and that cannot be expressed. These things are not read in the papers, but are parts of the intangible things that impress a visitor and help him to estimate the life and culture of the people.

And so I am appealing, Sir, that Ife, the cradle of the Yorubas and which they claim to be the centre of creation should be investigated,



[CHIEF SOLARU]  
the home of the Obanta at Ijebu, the smoky hillsides at Ilesha—there is a smoky hill there at Imo—the highlands of Ekiti, all these match anything that you could get in the Highlands of Scotland. I spent a fortnight because I was lured by my fellow students during the Easter holidays on the lakes in England. Everybody goes to see the daffodils of Wordsworth in the lake district. I went. Well, I did not find many daffodils but I saw plenty of hillside and plenty of wet heather which is not very pleasant under foot. I spent a fortnight travelling round and boating on the lake. Well, all these things have entered into the culture of the British people and we here should be contributing to our cultural heritage if we did these things and quickly too.

Somebody has spoken about car-hire. They enter into these things. Sometime ago, I had to arrange a visit for someone coming from London and, of course, knowing what they had at home, he said you could arrange for car-hire. I went round the whole of this metropolis and the best offer I could get was five guineas a day if you are in Lagos, if you went outside Lagos and are spending a night out you would have to pay two guineas extra. A tourist spending seven guineas just merely to get somewhere! That would not fetch them. So the Government must do something either to bring these sharks and Shylocks to book, or to try to encourage a motor hire industry in order not to kill this laudable scheme that we are now launching.

Sir, I am glad to say that they have mentioned that they are going to seek co-operation of the Regional Governments, of Local Councils, of all and everyone who can contribute. After all, they know their areas and they will be assisted in order to fill the picture that this country of ours is not merely picturesque from the cinema industry point of view but is picturesque in the way we live, the way we work, the way we laugh, the way we spend our lives.

Sir, I support this Sessional Paper and I commend it to the country.

*Whereupon Mallam 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.*

*Original Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House approves the policy proposed by the Government in Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1959 on the promotion of the tourist industry in Nigeria.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BILL (House in Committee)

**The Chairman:** I have to start with a confession. I am afraid that on Saturday I was slow to recognize that the first amendment on which we stopped—it has not really been moved; Mr Jaja Wachuku had not finished his speech—that amendment is clearly out of order. Erskine May says that if an amendment is incoherent and inconsistent with the Clause of the Bill it is out of order. It is a recognised practice in England that the Chairman if he does not recognise that an amendment possibly handed in at short notice is in fact out of order, may then note the fact which makes it out of order and he is entitled to withdraw it from the Committee. I must do so, but point out to Mr Wachuku that all the arguments which I think I have heard are equally relevant on the question that the Clause stand part of the Bill, and he would not be restricted in his argument in making those points on the question that the Clause stand part of the Bill. But of course by voting against the Clause to stand part of the Bill he would wreck the Bill as effectively as anything would. He has handed in an amendment this morning which I think is in order in line 18, if he chooses to leave out some words and insert others.

*Amendment proposed, in line 1, clause 3, after "may" to leave out "by order" and insert "with the approval of the House of Representatives."*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** My amendment of clause 3, sub-clause (1), Sir, is that I am asking that the clause should read "The Governor-General, may, with the approval of the House of Representatives, establish institutes for the purpose of scientific or industrial research." My reason for this amendment, Sir, is this. As it stands now no specific institute for industrial research is mentioned. It is just an open blank cheque issued to the Government not to bring the matter to this House.



My purpose in asking for "with the approval of the House" is this. Before the Governor-General in Council decides that an institute should be established, certainly they must know the nature of the institute, what it is going to do, whether or not it is necessary, and then they will also estimate what it will cost, and on the basis of that, its function, the organisation, the composition, the control, and everything, and its purpose. Then they will prepare a White Paper just as we have here this morning, the White Paper on the Tourist Industry. That is a typical example of what I have in mind. The appropriate Minister will prepare a White Paper, lay it on the Table of this House, Sir, with all the arguments for such an institute, and the necessity for such an institute. Then we know, Sir, the purpose of that is that if we approve that White Paper, when the Government brings a Bill and they say, "we put this thing to you, you approved it, and now we want the money", nobody in this House will say 'no' to such a scheme. With the approval of the House it has this advantage, that Members who will study the White Paper will know if they have any contributions to make, if there is any other aspect of the institute they have in mind, if there is any knowledge which they have acquired somewhere, and they will be able to advise the Government on that; so that when we establish such an institute it will be a job well done between the Government as the executive of this House, and the House itself, with the full co-operation of the House, and then the House will know what it is voting money for, that that money is not going to be wasted.

My fear is that if the House does give approval, any head of department will think that there is some institute they want to establish; he will put up a long argument wrapped in beautiful words, cotton-woolled, and coat the thing with sugar and pass it on to the Permanent Secretary. Besides, the Government will put their own butter on it, and put marmalade on it and everything that will be sweet and then it will be put on the table of the Minister. Before the Minister can remove the first coat, and then the second coat, and then the third coat, and then the fourth coat, and so many coats, someone might call in and say the Prime Minister wanted him for a certain thing, and he leaves it, and by the time he comes back to it, they will wrap it again, and you have so many of these things

wrapped in so many coats. And by the time he starts to go to the details of it, he is bound to consult his Permanent Secretary again and he will get his advice like that. Then he will take it to the Council. And once he has taken it to the Council, his job will be to fight tooth and nail to have his paper passed by the Council. And unless there is anything really wrong with it, it is difficult—I am not saying that the Council do not turn down papers; they certainly do turn down papers and make amendments as they like. I am sure of that. But then that is not done very often. And once it has gone through the Council, and if we have a Government as we have now—a National Government—why can't we as ordinary people see that a fundamental change is made to such a Bill?

So, Sir, I feel that in a case like that, once it has gone through the Council, then they will not bring it to the House at all. You will only hear that an Order has been made. And they will say that "according to section 3 of subsection (1) of the Scientific and Industrial Research Law passed on such and such a day, and you were a Member of the House, you gave us authority to do so, lips shut; we have done so; you have no right to quarrel." What can we do? And you are bound by it.

So, Sir, I feel that it is very vital now to have this amendment "with the approval of the House of Representatives" as a check to make it possible for Members to criticise the White Paper and make sure that it is necessary. We do not want mushroom institutes: institutes that will be set up by the back door. You take, for instance, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry: I am sure that they have one at Oshodi and another one somewhere else. Tomorrow the Posts and Telegraphs will say they want to establish their own institute; the Ministry of Finance will say, "Oh! we want to establish a research institute for boats travelling on the Lagos Lagoon"; and the Ports Authority will bring their own, something like a seamen's institute, and so on, and you have a multiplicity of institutes. The Ministry of Education will say they want an education institute to be put up at Isalegangan area....

**An hon. Member :** What of the medical? You have not talked about that.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** The Medical institute is already in Yaba there, and they will want to



hide it in Ikorodu somewhere in the bush there. So we find, Sir, that institutes will be growing up overnight like mushrooms.

So I am asking, Sir, that the Minister should see the reasonableness of this clause and allow this amendment to be made, and the amendment should see that the responsibility should be to the people of this country to make sure that any institute that is going to be established now is carefully scrutinised.

My quarrel with this, Sir, is that on Saturday when I was talking here the Minister of Research and Information was referring me to the White Paper on Veterinary Research. But there is no Motion in this House asking this House to approve this White Paper to establish a Veterinary Research Institute. The Minister of Commerce and Industry has brought a Motion here asking the House to approve the promotion of a tourist industry, and he puts the composition there. That we have done. If the Minister of Research and Information had brought a White Paper and by a Motion in this House wants it approved, then on the basis of that approval suggestions by the Members of this House will be incorporated in the Bill, and if you bring the Bill, I am sure it will have easy passage. But not when that type of thing has been done and you bring an omnibus Bill, an enabling omnibus Bill, a free hand for everybody, it will not be the Minister of Research and Information alone. We shall have a Bill from the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power and every department of Government in one day and expect us to accept a blank cheque like that.

There is no need going any further on the argument, Sir. It is so clear that every Ministry, if you want an institute of your own, can bring this Bill here and then the House will see if the White Paper is necessary. If it is not necessary; you take it back, and when it is necessary and we can afford it, we certainly will support it. But if we find that this particular institute is not necessary now, we say "good Minister, put it away for the time being and next time you may bring it out and we will deal with it". Until that happens, Sir, I think that this Bill as it stands is a dangerous Bill. It takes powers from this House, and we cannot afford it. Personally I am strongly of the

opinion that this Bill should be shelved. (*Applause*).

*Amendment proposed.*

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Chairman, Sir, we on the Government Bench quite appreciate the points made by all the hon. Members and we have also seen their fears about the Bill. But as my hon. Friend Mr Udochi said the other day, it is merely a permissive Bill, with means to allow the Governor-General—which means the Governor-General in Council—to establish research institutes.

Now, the House will be aware, Sir, that already we have got many research organisations—veterinary, agricultural, and others. One would think, Sir, that the first organisations to be established are these existing organisations, that is the research organisations which we already have. I agree with the views of my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja, but if we just do what he is asking us to do, it is not the practice to say that the Governor-General may "with the approval of the House of Representatives".

I understand, Sir, and I want to give the assurance, that before any research institute is established this House will be given every chance to see the composition of it, and what it is intended to achieve. After all, Sir, it is this House which is going to vote whatever money is required for the setting up of the institute. And my Friend, Sir, being a lawyer, will agree with me that it will look a bit ugly if we depart from our usual practice of leaving the provision of the Bill as it is here. I think, Sir, with the assurance I have given, the reasonable hon. Members will agree that the Bill should go forward. (*Applause*.)

*Mr T. O. S. Benson rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put : but the Chairman withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.*

**Mr U. O. Ndem** (Calabar): Mr Chairman, Sir, much as I appreciate the assurance given by the Prime Minister, I feel that we owe it as a duty to this country to oppose this clause, clause 7 (1). It should be deleted from the Bill. And I feel, Sir, . . .

**Several hon. Members**: That is not the point.



**The Chairman :** Order, order. Mr Ndem is talking at the wrong moment if he wants to have the clause deleted he must vote against "the clause stand part". We are on the amendment now introduced by Mr Wachuku.

I think we had better have a break now when perhaps Members will consider what they think about it.

*Sitting suspended : 11.33 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.*

**Mr U. O. Ndem (Calabar) :** Mr Chairman, I think that I fully endorse the Amendment proposed by my hon. Friend Jaja Wachuku because I feel that this hon. House should act as the custodian of the rights of this country, and that being the case, any order to create an Institute should be laid on the table of this House for a full-dress debate. If this House agrees that it is necessary to establish that Institute then of course we shall give the necessary sanction, and if on the other hand we feel that such Institute is not necessary and it is not intended to serve the best interests of this country, then we shall be at liberty to reject such an Order. It is only on that basis that we can allow this Clause to go through. Otherwise I would say that this Clause is pernicious and is very repugnant to the principles of democratic government of this country; but if this Amendment is accepted and an Order to establish any particular Institute is brought before this House and we fully debate such an Order, then I will support this amendment.

With these remarks, Mr Chairman, I fully support the Amendment put in by Mr Jaja Wachuku.

**M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel that I shall not be doing justice to myself and the hundreds of workers that will be affected as a result of this particular clause being passed into Law. I accept however the Prime Minister's assurance, but nevertheless I wish to make certain observations. My hands, Mr Speaker, have been strengthened this morning when I received another telegram, the second of its kind from the Veterinary African Staff Union in Vom protesting against this particular clause, that it would be most harmful to the national interests

of Nigeria if this particular clause providing for the establishment of Research Institute is passed into Law.

I have been informed, too, I will explain later, that since the creation of the Veterinary Laboratory in 1925 no single African Research Officer has been produced and there is no hope of any for the next five years.

**The Chairman :** That I think comes better under the Clause. This Amendment only says that the approval of the House must be sought before action is taken, so the argument must be confined within that rather narrower sphere.

**M. Maitama Sule :** If therefore we give this blank cheque to the Governor-General to establish by a mere Order in Council a Research Institute possibly on the recommendations of those same expatriate officers who have been discriminating against our men, it is likely that the advantage can be taken to continue to suppress the Nigerians who are already suppressed, more especially as the Legislature will have nothing to do with the establishment of such institutes. If on the other hand the Legislature will have a say in the creation of these institutes a lot of our fears—I mean the fears of the African workers—will be allayed. Your able Deputy, Mr Chairman, this morning received a similar telegram on behalf of the Legislature (*Laughter*). He received an s.o.s. from the 500 strong Technical Workers' Union in Vom whose destiny is seriously being affected. They say they have not been consulted. Let me say this; in passing this particular clause we are making it possible for the Governor-General to create institutes overnight without reference to this House. But I want to say, Sir, that the Government must create an atmosphere in which these workers will work with satisfaction and one which will make it possible for us the elected representatives of the people to have a say in the creation of such an institute. They can only make it possible by allowing the House to have a say in the creation of the institute without necessarily giving the whole power to the Governor-General.

Sir, whatever our views may be, if we pass this Bill—and I hope we shall, having been assured by the Prime Minister—I would like the Government to take into consideration the



[M. MAITAMA SULE]  
 conditions of these African Workers who will be affected. And any order or regulations governing the establishment of the institutes must be placed before this House so that there may be a debate on them. If that assurance is given the fears of these workers and those of us who are now speaking in this hon. Legislature will be allayed. Mr Chairman I reluctantly oppose the amendment whilst supporting the Bill on the assurance given by the Prime Minister.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** I will confine myself to the contention of this Bill. I feel, Sir, that if the principle is established then the fears of the friends of hon. Maitama Sule will be wiped out. We are not discussing the nature of the institutes. We are not discussing whether it should be a corporation or the conditions of service of the people should be changed. The point is we are giving the Governor-General in Council the power to establish institutes about which we shall hear later on. I want to say that it is more honourable for the Governor-General to be informed of our views before anything is done, otherwise it will be a matter of no confidence on the Governor-General if we throw out some Orders that he had made to establish an institute.

There is one particular aspect of this thing that appals me. We say that this is a democratic Government. Democracy is a delicate instrument. What you want is for us to give you the power to rule without consent. This cannot be democracy! Call it autocracy, or oligarchy. That is what this Bill is about. You bring this thing to the House and ask the elected representatives to do away with their rights. But what my Friend hon. Jaja Wachuku is saying is, put this thing there so that when you have such intentions we shall know; just as you have done in the case of the Tourist Industry. I am unable to understand why the Council of Ministers feels affronted when we say: "Consult us when you are thinking of such a thing." It is their duty to show us the way but it is our duty to ask them where we are going to. With these few remarks, I am supporting the Amendment.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to put it on record that in the United Kingdom and other countries it is the principle for the Minister to consider the views

of the Legislature in coming to a decision on matters confidential. Now the purpose of asking that this Order or the establishment of institutes must be with the approval of the House of Representatives is to ensure that all interests that are involved are catered for and are protected. Now, Sir, some of us say that although the National Government has done something good in so many respects yet in others it has been a curse. I cannot believe, Sir, that if it were a Government having opposition that a thing like this would not be proper. The Bill may be good but the steps they have taken is not good or is not as they should be.

Everybody says that this is not good enough, but the Minister is stubborn. In this particular respect, he is not prepared to concede to the House the right to be informed of what he intends to do. If the Government intends to establish a dictatorship because we have a National Government let them say so. But this is pure dictatorship and I refuse to accept the Government's views. This is not democracy at all. Democracy is the government of the people, for the people, by the people. (*Hear, hear*), but this has become a Government of the Ministry by the Minister and for the Minister. The Minister of Research and Information wants to steam-roller this Bill and he does not want to concede. The concession I am prepared to give as far as this amendment is concerned is for the Government to give us an assurance, the Prime Minister, or any Minister, if the Minister of Research and Information does not want to exercise his initiative except to rely on the prestige of the Prime Minister—he has even not said a word. He relies on the prestige of the Prime Minister to clothe him, and this Bill shows the incompetence of the Minister and his staff. I say they are inefficient and should be dismissed.

I said it, Sir, that the interest of the African Staff had not been protected and I would like to place this on record. Here is a telegram I have received "Hon. Jaja Wachuku, Legislature, Lagos. Oppose the conversion of the Veterinary into Research Institute, vehemently. African Staff not protected. Opinion of the African Staff not sought. All workers unhappy. Protect African interest". The second one, Sir, . . . . . (*Interruption*).



**The Chairman :** I think there is a limit to the reading of documents. I think it is enough to say telegrams have been received from this or that group praying that protection be given to their workers.

**Mr Wachuku :** Why I say this, Sir, is this ; it may be the Minister has not received it. He may therefore have the opportunity of reading it in the Hansard.

**The Chairman :** I still disagree. I think my ruling stands. Such things must be summarised and not read at length.

**Mr Wachuku :** Now, Sir, this telegram suggests that since 1925, this Institute of Research was established, not one single Nigerian had been given any facility to be trained in research. Another telegram from the Vom African Staff Union also says they have not been consulted in this matter. Now, Sir, if the people who are directly interested in this matter have not been consulted how does the Minister in conscience want us to pass this Bill ?

The Minister should have made a statement "We have consulted this department, we have consulted the workers involved, we have consulted all the unions involved," and if they support this Bill it could have been easy to pass. But here the people are saying that they were not consulted and the Minister expects us to pass this Bill and he wants to hide under the cloak of the Prime Minister. I am saying that if the Prime Minister or any Minister stands up here and gives us the assurance we want on this Bill it will be passed. Any institute that is going to be established by the Government, when an Order is made that Order must be laid on the table of the House, within a certain period, for debate.

**The Chairman :** I have received an amendment exactly in those words that every such Order must be laid on the table of the House.

**Mr Wachuku :** This amendment will enable the House to go into the matter and in every institute that is going to be established a white paper on that institute will be prepared such as in the case of the Tourist Industry specifying the nature of the functions, organi-

sation, in fact everything laid on this table so that Members will have the opportunity to debate on that and see that the House is adequately protected. And if it is on the lines of that I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

**The Chairman :** I called Mr Wachuku to speak again thinking that he was going to elucidate his points, to bring some further facts out but he has repeated some of the arguments he used in his speech. Had I known I would not have called him.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun East) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, what may have led to prolonged debate on this Motion might have been that my hon. Friend does not realise the purpose of this institute. Mr Chairman, Sir, the Bill is clear and it only needs a little glance at the *Objects and Reasons* of this Bill to understand what is being proposed here.

**The Chairman :** Remember it is the amendment now that is being discussed.

**Chief Balogun :** That is what I am going to talk about. May I claim your protection from this little group on the other side. Mr Chairman, Sir, there is an analogy which can make the position clear to my hon. Friend. Suppose the Minister is going to set up the Board of the Tourist Corporation, which has been so mentioned this morning, I do not think that the Minister is going to bring to this House the name of the people going to serve in the Corporation.

**Mr Wachuku :** That is not the point.

**Chief Balogun :** I do not think that the Minister — take for instance the Electricity Corporation—is bound to bring before this House for approval the names of people to serve on the Board. In the case of the institute Members are arguing that they must bring the names of the people to the Floor of this House. Any other thing is contained in the *Object* of this Bill. I want to make it clear that there is a misunderstanding.

Secondly, there is some reference to the staff of the Veterinary Research Institute at Vom. I want to say, Sir, that there are certain matters on which it is imperative that even the people in Vom. . . . . (*Interruption*).

**Mr Wachuku :** On point of Order, Sir, the principle that is being debated is whether the



MR JAJA WACHUKU]  
House is going to be consulted; whether the creation will be with the approval of the House and nothing more.

**The Chairman :** I want to make one further remark. I do know that the Government is going to meet everything that has been suggested by the Mover of the Amendment and in order that Members may not speak on matters which will soon be irrelevant perhaps I would call a Member of the Government to say what they want to do.

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Chairman, Sir, in addition to the assurances already given by the Prime Minister, I would like to say that an amendment will be moved. A new subsection to clause 3 reads "An Order establishing an Institute under this section shall not come into operation until it has been approved by a resolution of the House of Representatives (Prolonged Applause). . . . (Interruption).

*Amendment by leave withdrawn.*

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Mr V. Mukete): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move an amendment, page C173, Clause 3, line 19 at the end insert new subsection (2). "(2) An Order establishing an institute under this section shall not come into operation until it has been approved by a resolution of the House of Representatives, and the House of Representatives may by such resolution make such modifications to the Order as it thinks fit."

*Amendment proposed.*

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Chairman I rise to move an amendment to Clause 4, page C173, line 41, leave out subsection (3). Subsection (3) states: "Any instrument or contract which, if executed or entered into by a person other than a body corporate, would not require to be under seal, may be executed or entered into on behalf of an institute by the chairman or by the director or such other members or servants of the board as may be appointed by the board to act in their place." My quarrel with that is that it is not necessary to leave this so open. I think this should be restricted to responsible persons. Here an

institute becomes a body corporate—a *persona* in law. To allow any person or such other member or servant of the Board as may be appointed by the Board, you can appoint a messenger. This is too wide and I am asking the Government to consider this very seriously and I am asking that this sub-clause be left out.

The Board is a body corporate, they have got their own seal. I think this latitude should not be given to anybody just because any man can do it. That seal represents a man as far as the law is concerned. Once you incorporate a body it becomes just the same as a human being. When you now say anybody, any servant, you begin to derogate its status as a corporation. You have a real person and you have a person in law. Now you are telling us that any arm, an appendage of that corporate body can sign it. It means that even a messenger, anybody can be authorised to sign it. Unless the Government can give a really lucid explanation why this Clause should be there I am asking that this Clause should be left out.

*Amendment proposed.*

**The Minister of Research and Information :** This power will only be given to people on the authority of the Board. We expect that the Board will be responsible in delegating its power. This clause is intended to save the time of the Board. We have known from experience in the Inter-Territorial Institute that to require the Board to negotiate all contracts, even minor ones, can take a lot of useful time.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Instead of leaving it like this I would have expected the Minister to say "Certain servants not below certain ranks" because if you limit the scope it makes the responsibility clear.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Clause 4 agreed to.*

*Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.*

*Clause 7.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Mr Chairman, I rise to move an amendment to Clause 7, page C174, line 27, leave out from "therein" to end of line 46. This is one of those things that try to convert this institute into a local council. When it makes bye-laws including the keeping of livestock and impounding animals and so on; in effect legislating in matters for the maintenance of public health, prevention of fires,



prohibiting or regulating the hawking of wares and so on. I think this is just beyond the competence of the institute. It says here: "Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, bye-laws so made may provide for all or any of the following." So long as it is within its competence, I do not move.

*Clause 7 agreed to.*

*Clauses 8 to 12 agreed to.*

*Clause 13.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Mr Chairman, Sir. I rise to move an amendment to Clause 13 (1) to substitute "may" for "shall". The particular clause reads as follows: "(1) Within a period of one year and six months, but not before the expiration of a period of one year, next following the date on which an institute is established, the Board of the institute shall offer to every officer seconded to the board from the service of the Government of the Federation on that date, employment by the board upon such terms and such conditions as may be agreed between the Governor-General and the Board". I say "may" because if the Board finds that a particular servant that is seconded is not suitable it should be open to the Government that seconded him to take him away to somewhere else. But if you say "shall" it is mandatory, whether you like him or not you must take him. I say it should be left at the discretion of the institute itself because there comes a time when you convert a Government Department to a corporation or an institute, a corporate body with a Board. Certain things that were condoned by the Government Department, nobody bothered.

You will find that there are passengers in some of the Corporations. If we are going to maintain within our finances there are certain passengers we do not want. If the Government want to take passengers take them whenever you want but not here. As it stands now there is no freedom on the part of the Board to get rid of such people. I am asking that there should be discretionary power to take such good people and leave them there, but some other people that are not good the Board should have the discretion to say, 'thank you very much for all the services you have rendered but we do not think you can remain.' It will be an unreasonable Board that will sack

suitable people who will make the purposes of the Board realistic. Then I think such people are not fit to be members of the Board at all. I am only making that amendment because I am speaking in the light of experience elsewhere. We got in there and we found that there were a lot of passengers whose existence there was inimical to the financial and efficient working of a certain body. We could definitely say 'well you have done well but I think you might as well take your exit.' I ask the Government to do the same thing in this particular respect. I am not standing behind the members of the Board.

*Amendment proposed.*

**The Minister of Research and Information :** It follows a well-established precedent and it is designed for the protection of seconded officers. In fact what the hon. Member has been saying seems to me to run contrary to what he said earlier on about a telegram he received from workers at Vom. We must give an assurance to those who are already in the department which will be converted into an institute that their interests will be protected.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Clause 13 agreed to.*

*Clause 14.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move an amendment to Clause 14, page C176, line 38, leave out subsection (4). Subsection 14 (4) states: "Nothing in the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall prevent the appointment of a person to a pensionable office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension under the Pensions Ordinance, 1951, to such person in respect of his service in that office." I want an explanation of why that should be so.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the ways in which the Government does not secure the ready acceptance of its proposals is by leaving Members in the dark. If there is any reason for any particular clause being put in one would have thought that in introducing the Bill the Minister would draw attention to that particular Bill and 'say you will notice that such and such is being done because of such and such a thing'.



[CHIEF SOLARU]

This clause we are speaking about looks as if it has been put in in order to guard the interests of certain particular officers whom you already have in mind. If it is so tell us about these officers, why this thing will work against their interests; but do not let us assume that there is just a rule laid down. There is a definite provision being made for particular officers. We would like the Minister to throw a little more light on that clause.

**The Minister of Research and Information :** That provision merely permits officers to be on contract. I dare say that this Bill follows a well established precedent. When we converted the Nigerian Broadcasting Service into a Corporation we made provision for very similar arrangements.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

*Clause 14 agreed to.*

*Clauses 15 to 23 agreed to.*

*Clause 24.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 24 says: "The board of an institute shall not, without the approval in writing of the Governor-General, alienate, mortgage, charge or demise any immovable property which has been vested in the board under any of the provisions of this Ordinance or in respect of which a right of occupancy has been granted to the board."

Now, Sir, I think this is too restricted. In effect it says that they cannot do any of these except with the approval of the Council of Ministers. Suppose the Board wants to exchange a piece of land for another, I would have thought it would be better to put there "with the approval of the Minister" instead of the Council of Ministers as such, although I know that the Minister himself must consult the Council of Ministers. Otherwise, it would be long before you send the paper to the Council of Ministers and they approve it or disapprove it. It may be a matter of urgency. I was wondering whether the Government would consider that particular point and give the power to the Minister, not necessarily to the Council of Ministers as a whole.

*Clause 24 agreed to.*

*Clauses 25 and 26 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported with an amendment.*

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

**Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo):** Well, Mr Speaker, I think in the course of debating this Bill through the Committee stage, it emerged from telegrams which hon. Members of the House had received from the staff and workers connected with the various institutions engaged in research in this country that they are very apprehensive of what is likely to happen if and when institutes are created, that is if institutions like the establishment at Vom are converted to an institute. It would mean probably putting them away from the reach of the Ministers and of this House just as we have been having experience over Corporations since their creation. Steps should therefore be taken to make certain that all the men at present engaged are given reasonable terms of employment and that their interests are protected.

I think that it is necessary that the Minister in charge should take great care to see that nothing is done to disrupt the organisation or the set-up and to see that no member of the staff now engaged on research is made to lose his job. There is one aspect I think which is not very well known of research in this country, not very well known to the Members of this House and to members of the public. For many years we have been having institutes of research or research establishments in the country but I have not yet come across many Africans who have been made to specialise and become Research Officers of repute. What has happened in the past has been that some of these institutions, Sir, bring in expatriate officials and they come here and make research for their degrees and then in some cases do not even make their manuscripts available to the establishment. I think we should try and avoid the possibility of converting institutes, when established, into just a place for research students abroad to come here and specialise and then go away, this country deriving no benefit from them. Although we are going to be given the opportunity, and we are very happy that that has been the situation, whenever any institute is going to be created of debating and looking at the contents of such institute and asking questions as to the personnel to be engaged in the work of the institute,



I hope the Ministers will make certain that we train more research workers who will have to man our research institutions and not make us depend entirely upon expatriate research officials.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, in spite of all that has happened since Saturday over this Bill, I want to express my appreciation of the steps that the Prime Minister has taken to reassure us that this is a democratic House by that amendment which was introduced to give heed to the cries of Members in respect of this Bill. I wish to take this opportunity to say, Sir, now that this Bill is on the verge of being passed, that, as my hon. and learned Friend, Dr. Udoma over there has mentioned and as I said here on Saturday, in the past there has been a tendency on the part of people to come and make researches in our institutions and leave no record of their theses for our people. The Minister should make it a condition of allowing people to come here and use our institutes for research for degrees or other types of work that whatever may be the result of such research a copy of such result should be given to this institute so as to enable the Government and the country itself to know what has been the result of such research because a research institute is supposed to benefit the country. It is a good thing that people should come to our own institutes to do research because it is a recognition that such an institute is a valuable institution from the world point of view.

Therefore I want to suggest—I am saying this in the light of the telegrams which we have had—that since 1925 this particular Institute, the Laboratory at Vom, for thirty-four years has not been able to produce any Nigerian from that institution capable of even manning it. After thirty-four years they should have been able to produce a Nigerian who should be able to direct that Institute. I say, Sir, now that we know that this is the position, an assurance should be given by the Minister that appropriate steps will be taken to correct the mistake of the past.

I am speaking in the light of experience gained when this particular Department was being investigated by us. Our fear then in saying that the House should have information about this is because when we investigated the question of Nigerianisation in the various Government Departments our authority did not

extend to Corporations. Similarly, when an investigation of this nature arises, unless the Prime Minister appoints a body to go into this institute and Corporations to investigate them and report to the House, they will be insulated from the public gaze. So, Sir, I say that as this is going to lead to the conversion of the Veterinary Research Centre at Vom to an institute, one of the very first things that must be made clear to those who direct that institute is that the mistake of the past must be corrected and facilities must be given to Nigerian students because we need them very badly now to be brought up in the research technique and full co-operation should exist between that institution and the University College. Science students in the University College should be encouraged to make use of that institution for their researches so as to produce people to control and man that institution.

With these remarks, Sir, I support the Third Reading.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife)** : I want just to know whether the Minister has any plans whatever for training students in the research institution?

**Mr Speaker** : I am not sure that that is relevant to the Third Reading.

*Question, That the Bill be now read the Third Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

AGRICULTURE (CONTROL OF IMPORTATION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to make provision for regulating the importation of articles for the purpose of controlling plant diseases and pests be now read a Second Time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, unlike the last Bill this is a non-contentious Bill and I do not need to take up much of the time of this hon. House with it. There is unfortunately, Sir, an error in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill. The power to make regulations for the control of the importation of certain articles which may be the source of plant diseases and pests is at present vested in the Board of Agriculture, and not in the Governor-General. The primary object



of this Bill, Sir, is to transfer this power to the responsible Minister since the Board of Agriculture, while still extant in theory, is in practice defunct.

The Board of Agriculture was empowered, under the Agriculture Ordinance of 1950, to make regulations for the control of the importation of plants and for the control of plant pests and diseases throughout Nigeria. However, when in 1954 the Regional Governments were enabled to enact their own legislation on the control of plant pests and diseases, the effectiveness of the Board decreased. It met rarely, and since the terms of office of its unofficial members lapsed, the Board itself became extinct as without two such unofficial members it was not possible to form a quorum.

Nevertheless, Sir, since the importation of plants into Nigeria is a Federal responsibility, there must be legislation to provide an effective means of control. Rather than revive a Board which has outlived its usefulness, I consider it preferable that new legislation should be introduced conferring upon the responsible Federal Minister authority to make appropriate regulations. There is a particular need at present for new legislation as the Federal Plant Quarantine Station at Ibadan, which is part of the Department of Agricultural Research, has recently been granted recognition by the Inter-African Phyto-Sanitary Commission. This Quarantine Station is approved for the primary quarantine of imported plant material for which special assurance through quarantine is required, and it is essential that the regulations concerning plant quarantine be amended to conform with the standard requirements of the Commission.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sure that all hon. Members are aware of the dangers of permitting unrestricted entry of articles into Nigeria which might be a source of plant diseases and pests, and I have no doubt that they will welcome this Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (The hon. Zannar Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr E. O. Imafidon** (Benin East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill as being

a progressive and timely Bill. It is timely because since this country is working to nationhood it is particularly proper at this time to bring such legislation and I have not much to say other than to congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill at this time.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

**The Chairman**: I would like to say one word to the Committee. It makes the job of the Chairman almost impossible if amendments are never received by the Chairman until he has taken the Committee Chair. To understand these, it is difficult enough if I just glance through them in my office beforehand, but if amendments do not habitually come in until the last moment it is just impossible. This Bill has been on the Paper you know for a long time, the notice appeared in the *Gazette*, and I do warn the Committee that it is not possible for the Chairman to understand every Bill so accurately as to be able to judge whether every amendment handed in at the last moment is in order. I have amendments later on and I will try to see whether they are in order.

*Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.*

*Clause 6.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): This clause stipulates that "where plants, seeds, soil, containers, straw or other packing materials or any other similar goods or things.....

**The Chairman**: We can all read that; it is not necessary for you to read it.

**Chief Onyia**: The point I want to make there, Mr Chairman, is this. I do not see how all seeds and plants coming into the country could be checked as it is provided here without it being made compulsory for the Authorising Officer to inspect them before they are taken delivery of. I do not see how we can check importation of bad seeds and what not. In my view, this clause ought to stipulate that seeds and plants coming into the country should be subject to inspection tests, not when suspected.



House of Representatives Debates

2113

[Agriculture (Control of

17 AUGUST 1959

Importation) Bill : Committee] 2114

Clause 6 agreed to.

**The Chairman** : It is now one o'clock and under Standing Orders sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.25 p.m.*

Clause 7.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu) : Mr Chairman, I wish to say a few words under sub-section 2 of Clause 7. I think in fact it represents an error. No person who obtains any information by virtue of this section shall, otherwise than in the execution of his duties or powers under this Ordinance, disclose that information except with the permission of the Minister. I think "of" should be "or".

*Amendment put and negatived.*

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

**Mr M. A. Sanni** (Oshun South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 8 (1) (C) I consider that the penalty prescribed is too severe and I am asking whether Government will do all it can to humanise this Clause. The penalty of £200 fine and, I repeat, and imprisonment for one year. This provides for double punishment. It should be imprisonment in default of payment of fine. You see, in England all the laws have been humanised, and I think too that we should also follow the example here, otherwise, Sir, by contravening the provision of this Ordinance our people who are not yet quite conversant with the laws and with present day Agricultural Ordinance will simply be sent to jail and we will have a nation of convicts. I ask the Government to humanise this law, to put it this way "Imprisonment in default of payment of Fine". Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment put and negatived.*

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central) : Mr Chairman, I would like to raise a technical point. It says here in Clause 9 "prosecution for an offence against this Ordinance shall be of the Director of the Federal Department of Agricultural Research and may be conducted by him or by an officer of that Department not below the rank of Technical Officer, and any prosecution so conducted shall be deemed

*prima facie* to have been commenced with due consent." My query is that when one commits an offence under this Ordinance the man that is going to prosecute the offender is not a Law Officer. It is very dangerous, Sir, to hand over prosecution to somebody who is not conversant with the Law. So I think what we need is to compare this. I do not know what legal knowledge the technical officers in that Department have in order to prosecute an offender under this Ordinance. I am appealing to the Minister to consider this. It is always very good that a law officer or any other person with a knowledge of law should prosecute somebody but it will be very dangerous to hand over an accused person to somebody who has no knowledge of the law.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu) : The observation I would like to make on this section is this. It does not necessarily mean that one must have to be a Crown Counsel before he prosecutes, but certainly a prosecutor must know what he is about. I have had the experience of watching some of these officers with statutory power of prosecution trying to prosecute in the court. It is a waste of time. One can remember Customs Officers coming to court for the first time to try to put across their case. They are not acquainted with the technique of prosecuting in court and they have not the vaguest idea of what they are supposed to do, and it is a waste of time so far as the court is concerned and really it does not give the impression that there is any serious intention of conducting a—prosecution.

I feel that the emphasis or rather, in practice, more use should be made of people with experience in the art of prosecution. If a Crown Counsel would not be available then an experienced Police Officer who is experienced in the art of prosecution should do so ; or then the Department might have to train its own prosecutors so that when a case is taken up it is taken up with the seriousness it deserves and not merely mismanaging things and creating the impression that there is no serious intention on the part of the law officers that the law should be duly prosecuted.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba) : Not only law officers can prosecute in this country or all over the world. The police who prosecute are no law officers and in the Native Courts and our



[CHIEF ONYIA]

local courts ordinary people do prosecute. It only depends upon the knowledge of one of the very law. A technical man may know more about the law affecting his own part of work than a lawyer.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Action Group Government of the Western Region are responsible for what Chief Onyia said. In the Customary Courts of the Western Region they allow laymen to prosecute and even people with three or four feathers prosecute.

*Clause 9 agreed to.*

*Clauses 10 and 11 agreed to.*

*Clause 12.*

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I do wish to draw attention in respect of this law to a mistake that has been made in some Ordinances that have been passed before. It is becoming a usual occurrence that when in an Ordinance it is provided that some regulation be made in the future and that until then the old one continues to apply, that they lose sight of it and no regulation is made whatsoever. I think in this respect I may draw attention, for example, to a case of the Increase of Rents Restriction Ordinance where it is said that a regulation would be made as far back as 1950 and up to the moment a regulation of 1940 which is completely out of date and out of practice continues to apply. So we do hope, Sir, that when this sort of provision is inserted in the legislation that those officers concerned do make quite sure that they make an intimation as soon as they can afford to make one and not forget it and subject the people to out-moded procedure.

*Clause 12 agreed to.*

*Clause 13 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

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

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** (South Ilorin): In supporting the third reading of this Bill I wish to remind the Minister concerned to give wide publicity to the law not only in the Gazette but also to distribute pamphlets among group farmers and the ordinary peasants because this Bill provides severe punishment

for anybody who should break the law. We should also try to prevent contravention and not to encourage it, Sir. I support the third reading.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): This Bill when passed into law is intended to control plant diseases and pests but the Minister I hope will realise that this Bill has not gone far enough to control the plant diseases. As I pointed out in the morning it is only by information that he can know that plant diseases have been imported into this country but he cannot know when there is no information, when there is no suspicion, so that you can easily import plants and seeds into this country without any information coming up to check the control of these diseases. If the Minister has actually included compulsory inspection. . . .

**Mr Speaker**: Yes, but he has not; that is not in the Bill now.

**Chief Onyia**: So I am saying, Mr Speaker, that I hope that when the Minister is implementing the contents of this Bill he should take cognisance of the deficiency in the Bill.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): I am sorry I did not come to argue the amendment. The point is Clause 9. I am not arguing the amendment now, I know that but I want to point out to the Minister concerned that I hope at the earliest possible time an amendment will be brought to rectify this clause where it is said that prosecution so conducted shall be deemed *prima facie* to have been commenced with due consent. Now I hope when the time comes this dangerous clause will be removed, in the near future, because coming to prosecute and finding that one has no authority to prosecute and just mere commencing of prosecution—I think this is very very dangerous and I hope that in January or so an amendment will be brought to rectify that and proper consent will be obtained, otherwise an irresponsible officer will just begin to prosecute without any authority and this will confound his action.

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

AGRICULTURE (LAGOS) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr. Speaker, Sir,



I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance relating to the control of plant diseases, pests and noxious weeds in Lagos be now read the Second Time.

Sir, this Bill replaces the Agriculture Ordinance, 1950 in its application to Lagos and I will refer hon. Members to remarks I made in introducing the Second Reading of the Agriculture (Control of Importation) Bill and in particular to my remarks concerning the Board of Agriculture. The purpose of this Bill is to transfer to the responsible Minister the power to legislate for control of plant pests and diseases in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The provisions of the Bill are non-contentious and are designed to ensure that an effective means to control plant diseases exists should there be an outbreak of plant diseases or pest infiltration. The possibility is admittedly remote but there must be effective provisions for dealing with any emergency that might arise.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. Zanna Bukar Dipcharima): I beg to support.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo** (Ikot-Ekpene): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a quite welcome Bill but I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to a situation which affects this Bill for I think agriculture cannot be carried out in the air. It must be on land and from what I see we are to look forward to a time when there will be no land in the Federal Territory for purposes of agriculture so I am calling upon the Minister. . . (*Interruption*).

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): We can plant on the Atlantic Ocean.

**Mr Akpan-Udo**: I know that the Chief is going to talk since he anticipates I will mention land in the Western Region. For agriculture to continue in Lagos land must be made available and for these reasons I feel the N.C.N.C. and N.P.C. delegates to the Constitutional Conference were quite right in agitating that land in the Federal Territory should be made available from the present portion of the Western Region when the Action Group opposed this idea. . . . (*Interruption*).

**Mr Speaker**: Order, order. The last sentence I heard is right outside the Bill. It is not intended to do that.

**Mr Akpan-Udo**: Mr Speaker, Sir, all I want to say is that land should be available before we can have legislation on agriculture, unless it would be meaningless.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): This is a Bill relating to the control of plant diseases, pests and noxious weeds. What I cannot understand is why we in Lagos should be responsible for the control of diseases carried from the Western Region into Lagos since we have no land here for agriculture.

**Mr Speaker**: That does not relate to the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In Committee)

*Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**Mr M. A. Sanni** (Oshun Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I consider that the power which is being given to the Minister in this case is too wide. Not only will this Bill hamper agricultural development but also deprive farmers of the privilege to plant this plant or that plant. If we look closely a farmer is going to have dictation as to what he plants and what types of plants he should grow or sow.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Apolonus Okonkwo.

**Mr Sanni**: If hon. Members consider this objective carefully they will see that it is superficial. A farmer cannot plant at will and he will not plant or sow any particular kind of seed or plant. He will be at the mercy of the Minister if this Bill is passed into law. The regulations which the Minister will formulate will deprive farmers of their liberty.

*Clause 4 agreed to.*

*Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.*

*Clause 7.*

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, I am sorry I had not proposed an amendment to this particular clause but I feel that this fine is too heavy. A man charged will be fined £200. This is a very heavy punishment, and, I suggest £50 instead of £200 and imprisonment for three months.



**Mr J. A. O. Akande** (Egba North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want a clarification of this clause 7. £200 or imprisonment for one year; normally if somebody is fined I think that is the end, but does it mean that if someone commits an offence he must be fined and at the same time sent to jail? Mr Chairman, Sir, I would implore the Minister to make it a fine or imprisonment.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode** (Ife): There is one thing, Mr Chairman, in clause 7 that perhaps the Minister might clarify. That is clause 7 (2) which states in any prosecution for an offence against this section, the onus of proving the existence of a lawful excuse shall lie on the person charged". Well, I would have thought that the prosecution would have to prove in the first instance and not for the person charged. I think that this is hard on the person charged and I feel that the Minister should explain if he can what he means by it and if he cannot let him keep his peace.

**Dr E. U. Udoma** (Opobo): I think on that point Mr Chairman, section 7 (b) says "without lawful excuse, fails to comply, with any order lawfully given under this Ordinance". And section (c) reads "without lawful excuse fails to furnish any information lawfully demanded under this Ordinance or furnishes information which he knows to be false in a material particular or does not believe to be true". On the two clauses the onus is placed on the person prosecuting to show that there was no lawful excuse which is an unaccepted principle of law. But at the bottom of it that is removed completely. Now it says that it should be for the man "to prove the existence of a lawful excuse". This makes nonsense of the law in principle. So that I think the Minister should explain why he should have this thing like this. The two things are contradictory. This is purely a matter of principle.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, I understand my learned Friend here he said that the two things are contradictory. I imagine that the Minister was advised on the one hand by an English adviser on the English principles of law and on the other by the French. It is only in the French Territory that onus is on the man to prove his innocence; that is not English.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): The question is, Mr Chairman, are we now introducing the continental system here or are we still adopting the principle that a man is presumed to be innocent unless he is proved guilty. If the Minister wants to change that principle now he should tell us because this is a very fundamental issue to the whole law of the land.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): In view of the views expressed in this particular legislation by Learned hon. Gentlemen I wonder if the Minister will explain, otherwise we will be of the opinion that he has got some French influence.

**An hon. Member**: Atom Bomb.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister has refused to answer but I am afraid he must explain to us now. You will find here in clause 8 (2) "any prosecution so conducted shall be deemed *prima facie* to have been commenced with due consent". I think this is very dangerous. It puts power into inexperienced hands to do anything they like. You will be surprised one day that somebody has been removed from the Council of Ministers.

I want to say this. I notice that the three legal men in the Council of Ministers have conspired to sabotage the whole principle of law in this place.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): I must protest on behalf of Raymond Njoku. Conspiracy? You charge him with conspiracy?

**Mr Chairman**: No such charge could be brought against a Minister on an Amendment or in Committee.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I ask the question why the three legal men on the Government Bench particularly the Minister of Communications and Aviation who has been answering legal matters here is not capable to answer this thing. The Minister of Research and Information being a scientist cannot answer a legal question but it stands to reason that the legal men should answer. I think it is for the Minister of Communications and Aviation to answer whether he has changed the principle of law.



**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East) : Following up what my learned Friend, Jaja Wachuku, has just said I observe that on a point where Members of the House seek information the Minister is dumb and on a point where they shout the Minister is deaf. Does he want us to talk to him in the deaf and dumb language ?

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think some days ago my hon. Friend over there, Chief Solaru, a layman like myself, said he often heard that the law is an ass, and he asked what lawyers, are. I am pleased to say, Sir, that lawyers are really at their best this afternoon.

We have this provision in many of our laws, and I can remember that my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, raised the same point on another Bill. He said that, later on he was hoping that the Minister would see fit to remove this completely. Well lawyers, Sir, do not often agree among themselves, but now they seem to agree and I would very much like to say, Sir, that it will be unfair to ask the Minister to explain this complicated legal point. I hope the lawyers who know what they are talking about can explain it better and I expect to hear an explanation from one of the many lawyers on this side and on the other side.

**Mr J. M. Udochi** (Afenmai) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think my learned and hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, has been overstressing this point. I think you will see clearly that the onus does not shift at all. The law says 'prima facie'. It shall be presumed that authority was obtained but the accused can rebut the presumption by merely challenging it. (Interruption). 'Prima facie' is the thing. The phrase is, I think, quite correct.

**The Minister of Transport** (Mr R. A. Njoku) : I would like to remind my learned and hon. Friends in this House of the usual maxim of the law which says "*omnia praesumuntur rite esse acta*", that is to say, as the hon. Mr Udochi has said, it is a presumption of the law that any public act is done properly until the contrary is proved. That is the point here, that when the prosecution starts and it is done in the name of the Director of the Department and the law says that it is up to him to conduct or an officer of a high calibre in his Department, it is presumed that the authority has been brought until the contrary is proved. That is "*omnia praesumuntur rite esse acta*".

**Dr E. U. Udoma** (Opobo) : I would like to dismiss the point made by the Minister with a sweep of the hand. I think he would have done better not to have said anything this afternoon because if what he said is correct then there is no need to include this provision in the Bill. The point is that here we are providing for incompetence. When you make the principle that no prosecution should commence without the authority of the Head of Department any rat can go there and commence prosecution and then you will presume he has got the authority of the Head of Department. So that this is not a proper provision to be inserted in the law.

We have raised one issue before on the question of the innocence of the accused person. That provision, although the whole Constitution has not come into operation, is inserted in our Constitution, under the Fundamental Human Rights. You cannot assume a man to be guilty until the contrary is proved. You must take him to Court and prove by evidence, not make a law in such a way as to be oppressive so that when a man goes to Court he is helpless. That is the French system. We have been crying against French bomb, now we are having their law !

I would say that our Ministers should consider the matter very seriously. There is no need to provide all the time for incompetent people. If people outside read this law they would form the impression that we are very incompetent here. We provide for every incompetence. Also there is the well-known English principle of presumption. That is a man is presumed innocent. Now the Minister talked of presumption of what is right. If that is so then there should be no need to provide for anything here. We would go to Court and assume that everything is right. That will be the law and there will be no need for this special provision.

What we are saying is that although there is no amendment we think we ought to sound this warning so that in future when laws are being made we do not like these ideas French being imported into our law. Even when we had the imperial system we never had this thing introduced in our law.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : I did not intend to make any contribution to this debate until I started to entertain some fear that



## [THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AVIATION]

although the Members of the House always speak of fundamental human rights of free speech, they do not extend to us the fundamental human right of silence. I do not think that the intention of this law is to change the principle of English Law. The presumption of innocence on the part of the accused person still remains and it is not the intention in this Bill to deprive an accused person of that presumption. What the law is providing for here is not different from the general provision of the law.

I am quite sure that my learned Friends will agree with me that although the onus of proof in most of the criminal cases lies on the prosecution it is not a matter which will have general application even in all cases of criminal or pseudo-criminal offences. There are some pseudo-criminal offences in which the onus does not lie only on the prosecutor. I am quite sure my learned Friends have their 'Bible'—*Archibald*—which is going to assist them during their last 'prayers' tonight in that respect. What the law provides for is that where a man acts in a certain way and he creates the impression that he has acted with the authority of the law it is sufficient for him to be charged that he has acted without proper authority. After all, if I would be allowed to say so, when a man is charged the charge is not just read and the man is put in the box. After the charge is read the prosecution will have to lead its own case and in the process of leading the case allegation will be made that he has acted without authority and there may be proof that he has so acted. But the onus that he has so acted will lie wholly and solely on him.

We are going too far to say that this is a repeater of French Law. According to French Law it is the accused person who will go in to prove that he is not guilty. Here it is the prosecution who is going to prove first that the accused is guilty. We have not changed the system. Even here this does not alter the procedural law of the land. This does not alter the law of procedure. According to the law of procedure evidence will still be led by the prosecution, the accused person will have to prove that he has acted according to the authority.

Finally I observed that what has been done from all sides is to issue a warning and I would assure the House that the warning is noted. In fact I observe that among the legal luminaries in the House there has not been the ability to speak with one voice. The Secretary to the Nigerian Bar Association says one thing, then hon. Jaja Wachuku says another thing. And what will the Minister do but to leave things as they are in the interest of peace among the people.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu):** Mr Chairman, as Doctor of Laws by natural inclination I have heard what hon. Members said, but I can help the ordinary man to understand the point at issue. From the onset you said that somebody must not do certain things. If he does those things he will be guilty of an offence under the law. Then you turn round and say if you charge the person, that if you take him to Court, the man you charge under the law will come to prove that he has lawful excuse. What kind of legal interpretation is that? For me to allow such a thing to pass without comment is damaging. Why tell us that you have taken note of it?

Can the Prime Minister say now that having detected the thing that changing it round is too difficult? The Minister says he is taking note. How do you take note? Perhaps the man who takes note to-day will not be there to discharge the note and it is left to another to perform. That is your problem. You are taking note now, very good. You will keep to the note, perhaps you will not be there when another person will execute the note.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola):** We will hand over.

**Dr Mbadiwe:** I think it is just a matter of commonsense, if you want it to remain in your Statute Book I have no quarrel, but I have satisfied myself that I cannot allow the legal aspect of the matter to go under this without calling attention to it. Even the Minister of Transport wanted to carry the House with legal phraseology. We are not convinced. Prime Minister we are not convinced.



**The Minister of Health** (Hon. Ayo Rosiji) : Mr Chairman, I would like to point out first of all that sub-clause (2) to which objection is being taken now can only refer to Clause 7(1) (b) and (c) because it is in respect of those two sub-clauses that there is any question. If there is any question arising at all the offender can be committed under Clause 7(1) (b) for failing to comply with an Order lawfully given under the Ordinance. That is the offence. If it were in the French Law of course the prosecution does not need to prove anything to start with, it is the accused person who will have to prove that he has failed to comply with any Order lawfully given under the Ordinance. That is not what is being provided for here.

What we are quarrelling against is that the onus to show that lawful excuse had been obtained is for the defence to prove. Before you come to that the prosecution must prove the substantive offence. It is after they have proved that, that the defence will be required to show that they have lawful excuse and those of us who are lawyers in this House will know that this is a thing that is within the exclusive knowledge of the defence and therefore it is for the defence to say that, not for the prosecution.

Mr Chairman, I think that this is a completely good law. It is an exception in law which is made necessary by the circumstances which are required to be proved here.

*Mallam 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.*

*Original Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Clause 8 agreed to.*

*Clauses 9 to 12 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Question proposed, That Bill be now read the Third Time.*

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma** (Aba) : Mr Speaker, I would like to allay the fears of some of our hon. Gentlemen who must have misunderstood some of my Learned Friends here about the importation of the Continental form

of jurisprudence. I have to say that all these things said are mere jokes. There is nothing wrong with the law which has been very much criticised particularly Section 7(2). It is not the duty of the prosecution to prove the accused person innocent : it is the duty of the prosecution to prove him guilty so that when it says that "In any prosecution for an offence against this Section, the onus of proving the existence of a lawful excuse shall lie on the person charged" it is in consonance with the English law because it is the accused person that should prove himself not guilty". It is not the duty of the prosecution to prove him innocent.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, in following up what the hon. the Prime Minister said at the beginning about the unusual activity of lawyers this afternoon it is because they have just returned from lunch at which they took a lot of carrots.

**Mr Speaker** : I hope hon. Members know as well as I do that new arguments may be brought forward on the Third Reading and that Third Reading should not be merely a repetition of arguments.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish that it will be possible for the Minister to go to the law court and explain to the Magistrate or Judge that he did not mean this or that when we were passing the Bill.

*Question, That the Bill be read the Third Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

#### SPECIAL CONSTABLES BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Prime Minister** (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance for the establishment of a Police Force consisting of Special Constables, to prescribe their duties and powers, to provide for their terms of service, and to make provision for matters aforesaid, be now read a Second Time.

Sir, from the beginning I would like to explain to the House that it is a normal practice of the Federal Government, whenever Police Bills are being drafted, that the Regional Governments are fully consulted. This Bill, Sir, is a result of consultation with the Regional Governments as well as discussions about it in the Police Council.



[THE PRIME MINISTER]

We found, Sir, that there are some shortcomings in the present provisions of the law, and the main shortcomings are as follows. The Special Constables are to be reappointed annually or for a specific purpose and time. No provision at all exists for the payment of compensation to a Special Constable who, as the result of injuries he receives in the course of his duties as a Special Constable, is incapacitated for his normal occupation. Also there does not exist any provision for the payment of a pension or other compensation to the widow of a Special Constable killed on duty.

Sir, in this Bill we have made certain provisions which will make good the shortcomings under the existing Ordinance. For example, Sir, appointment to be a Special Constable is to be for not less than one year or is otherwise undefined. But the provision is made that special constables may resign their appointment upon 14 days' notice and their appointment may be suspended or terminated by superior police officers in charge of the province. I know that hon. Members will agree that such a provision is necessary, especially in times of emergency.

We have also in the present Bill, Sir, provided that a special constable, if injured on duty and if permanently incapacitated, should be awarded the same pension as will be offered as a supplementary injury pension by constables or N.C.O's of the Nigeria Police of the same rank and seniority. This is definitely an improvement in the law.

Provision is made also for the widow and dependants of the special constable killed in the execution of his duty, and the special constable should receive the same pension as would be payable to a constable or N.C.O. of the Nigeria Police killed in the same circumstances.

I have no doubt, Sir, that all hon. Members will welcome the provisions of this Bill, especially my hon. Friend, the Member for Asaba who is always taking up this question of special constables in the House.

I think the House will be pleased to note, Sir, that a Special Member of this House, Mr Ealey, is now in charge of the Lagos Special Constables. (*Applause*). And here, Sir, I would very much like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the Special Members of this House for their valuable contribution

not only on the Floor of the House, Sir, but also in their activities outside the House. (*Applause*.)

Mr Speaker, Sir, This, I believe, is a non-contentious Bill and I commend it to the House. Sir, I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr E. C. Ealey** (Special Member) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the hon. the Prime Minister for the kind things he has said. It makes it a little more difficult for me to speak on this Bill as I was hoping not to speak as a Special Constable but as a Special Member of the House.

After nearly five years of purely voluntary and very keen service, the Special Constabulary in Nigeria has won for itself full recognition in the form of this Bill which the Prime Minister has commended to us. The country, Sir, is grateful for the voluntary service so freely and enthusiastically given by our young men, and the Bill which we shall pass is visible proof of this.

Now, Sir, I am sure it is not the intention of the Government or of the Nigeria Police Force to put Special Constables in places of special danger. But any policeman or any special constable must sometimes run risks and find himself in a hazardous position by simply doing the normal work of a Policeman or Special Constable. For this reason, Sir, it is very right that a provision should be made in this Bill for disability and dependants pensions, if required, and if a Special Constable loses health or life in the performance of his duty.

Now, Sir, the feature of the success of the Special Constabulary in Nigeria and everywhere in the world is the co-operation of the employers who are so often deprived of the services of good employees, who are also Special Constables. Nigeria, I know, Sir, is grateful to these employers for this most generous co-operation. It will therefore be of great interest to employers in Lagos to know that Special Constables will in future be exempted from jury service. This, I feel, is a very wise provision of the Bill.

Finally, Sir, I have heard it said that Nigerians are not civic-minded and will not make sacrifices for their country. This is not true, Sir. The success of the Special Constabulary has proved that it is not true.



House of Representatives Debates

2129

[Special Constables Bill :  
Second Reading]

17 AUGUST 1959

[Special Constables Bill : 2130  
Second Reading]

As this is probably the last time that I shall have the privilege and honour of speaking in this House, I should like to end on this note, and ask all hon. Members to encourage and cherish the very keen spirit of voluntary service which exists in the hearts of many young men in Nigeria. If we have faith and provide the leadership, not only shall we be able to build up a very strong Special Constabulary, but in due course Nigeria will be able to build up a strong territorial army and naval volunteer force as well.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill. (Applause.)

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola, Afolu II** (Ijebu Remo): Mr Speaker, this is a Bill which I welcome wholeheartedly. (Interruptions.)

**An hon. Member** : Are you a special constable ?

**An hon. Member** : How can an Oba be a special constable ?

**Oba Aiyeola** : Mr Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister that special attention be taken to choose the right type of people, people who have the educational background, and the living means of the persons employed should be taken into consideration. Times there were, Sir, during the war when people who had no visible means of living were employed as special constables. Some of them, Sir, went under the guise of their offices and collected money from people under false pretences.

Mr Speaker, as special constables have been recruited in Lagos and Ibadan, I hope this could be extended to all the provincial headquarters in the country. Even in the North a good number of police constables should be recruited.

Mr Speaker, I know that public money to be used by special constables for clothing, equipment and other necessary outfit for the proper carrying out of their duties will be provided by the Government. In this wise Sir, I say that only people with visible means of living should be recruited so that they will not look forward for other money by the back door. Also, Sir, as our men folk are being recruited, consideration should be given to our women folk.

Mr Speaker, there is a point which I do not really understand. I think, Sir, that pensions are being paid to living beings. Last year,

in the Bill it is said that when a man dies when performing as a special constable, his wife or dependents will be paid a pension. I think, Sir, that only gratuities should be given to the wife or dependants of a man who dies by accident. It is only in the case of permanent incapacitation that pension should be paid to a man who sustains the injury.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): This is an excellent Bill, Mr Speaker, and I do not want to take much time of the House. I only want to say this, that the special constabulary which has been extremely successful in this country is an indication of the feeling of responsible citizenship amongst the citizens of Nigeria. Here are some people that are coming forward to give some voluntary service to their country in order that the country may be at peace. I would like to say that the Government is doing something which is extremely good. There is need for more policemen in this country, but Government has not got enough money to provide for the requirements of this country. For that matter, special constabulary is the only answer to this problem that is confronting this country, and that is the problem of wanting more and more policemen as a result of certain people going round causing trouble in some parts of the country.

I therefore commend the responsible citizenship of those young men who have agreed to join the special constabulary, and I say that it is an excellent idea that some sort of incentive has now been created by the Government so that these people may rest assured in the case of anything happening to them when under active service, that they will be provided for.

Sir, I support the Bill wholeheartedly and I commend it to all sides of this House.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think there is nobody who will say that the main provisions of this Bill are not good. My comment is in respect of clause 6 subsections (2) and (3) and clause 10. Here, Sir, there is provision that in special circumstances special constables may be appointed by superior police officers. And then, Sir, in clause 10 there is this :

"If any person being appointed a special constable and being called upon to serve, refuses or neglects to serve or obey such



**Chief A. Akerele** (Oyo South): I have nothing against this Bill excepting perhaps clause 5 (2) which states "that Special constables shall be selected from those persons who offer their services who are not less than 21 years old nor more than 50 years old." I should have thought for the efficient performance of their duties that it would be proper that only literate people should be selected if they are between the ages of 21 and 50. That is the only point I would like to make.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): That is assumed.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun** (Oshun East): Mr Speaker, I wish to support this Bill and to pay compliments to the Prime Minister for bringing it forward. Mr Speaker, Sir, it may well be that through the avenue of this Bill it will be possible to have the Police Force to carry out one of their vital duties during the forthcoming Federal Elections. There is no doubt that this country is very much "under-policed". Those of us who come from the provinces. For example, in my division with a population of 856,000, about two years ago when I wanted to know how many police officers were serving in my division, particularly at Oshogbo, I discovered that only about 25 policemen were posted to that place. Imagine a population of 856,000 people being manned by only 25 policemen. It shows how very law-abiding my people are; but at the same time I think we should not take things for granted because many Members have said that it will appear that the forthcoming Federal Elections are going to be a trying time for the Government.

Mr Speaker, I should like to say that we should take the opportunity of the encouragement which is being given to special constables and the provisions which are put down here to create a nucleus of a body which will give very effective support to the police force during the forthcoming Federal Elections. I will say then, Sir, that it is important to stress this aspect of the good that this Bill can do to the community.

With these few remarks I beg to support the Bill.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): This is a very good Bill and I feel that special constables should be paid reasonable allowances. I

would also like to say that there should be no form of transfer either from the Regions to Lagos or from the West to the East or from the North to the West until after the Federal Elections.

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.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Prime Minister for bringing this Bill. It is welcome; it is progressive and it is non-contentious. If many special constables are employed as envisaged for various duties I hope it will relieve regular Police in the stations for the duty of going to the rural areas—not townships like Asaba. If you have special constables at the police stations it will enable the regular police to go to the areas where crimes are committed with impunity and perhaps it will help the Police to establish some Police posts outside the police stations. In my division there is agitation in a place called *Akwukwu* for a police post and if the duties of the special constables are limited to townships then regular Police will be available for duties in the rural areas. I call on the Prime Minister to establish a 'police posts' in some rural areas.

The Prime Minister spoke about making use of these special constables during times of emergency. It is timely and I do hope that the Prime Minister realises that the time of Federal Elections is one of the periods of emergency. It is at this time that more of the special constables should be employed and I say that in some places like my Region it is very dangerous to employ the Local Authority Police to perform such duties during the Federal Elections; rather employ special constables. I hope the Prime Minister will think in future of employing special constables for certain duties which are very necessary in some



townships ; that is, he may extend the appointment or employment of special constables to certain personalities who will not be able to do certain regular work or duties of special constables as envisaged in this Bill. The Prime Minister should in future appoint as special constables certain personalities who will not be able to do certain regular work or duties of special constables in order to give certain information as police informants and to act as C.I.D. men. They may be elderly men who can give information of what is brewing so that the police will be aware of what is coming and then prevent a crime before it is committed.

**M. Nuhu Bamalli** (Central Zaria) : Mr Chairman, I just want to harp on the importance of establishing this force. I would urge the Government to see that a training centre for this special constable is established in every Division within the next three months so that people are trained as fast as possible to be able to combat the various uprisings that are likely to come up during the forthcoming elections.

**Mr L. A. Tobun** (Epe) : Mr Chairman, in discussing Clause 4 of the Bill I would like to congratulate the Government for introducing this Bill of special constabulary. Many Members have been speaking in this House, some people got up and said : "Are you a special constable ?" I want to tell them that I was during the war. I want to say this to allay the fears of some Members who said that people of no means at all were recruited into the special constabulary and because of that they abused their position. Things like that can happen anywhere.

What I am trying to suggest is that during the war recruitment of special constables was not done in the way that many hon. Members have suggested. They were recruited within departmental offices. It was not compulsory. There was a Government circular to all Heads of Departments that those who wished to enrol as special constables should please do so. I enrolled and I became a special constable during the war. This time I think the Government will not just pick anybody in the streets into this section of the police force, so that the question of people being recruited in the force being people of no means or anything at all. . . .

**The Chairman** : Much of the debate is proceeding on Second Reading lines but not really on Clause 4.

*Mallam Maitama Sule 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 accordingly and agreed to.*

*Clause 4 agreed to.*

*Clause 5.*

**Mr H. O. Abaagu** (Kwande) : Mr Chairman, I just want to say one thing I would suggest that one of the qualifications of anybody to be appointed special constable should be that he should be a non-party man. In my own part of the country I have seen that majority of the special constables do take part in politics and if we allow those chaps to participate in the conduct of elections there will be danger. In my home town a special constable with the rank of Lance Corporal is the Chairman of the Local Branch of the Action Group.

**M. Usman Angulu Ahmed** (Kwara) : Mr Chairman, I just want to underline what my hon. Friend has just said because the appointment of special constable is very important. They are the people to look after the peace and order of this country. To do this needs people of honesty and integrity, not to appoint hooligans or those who are interested in certain political parties.

*Clause 5 agreed to.*

*Clause 6.*

**Mr L. A. Tobun** (Epe) : I would like to say that a special constable with experience is being paid 10s. I suggest to the Government that an amount of £2 should be paid, an Inspector £3 per month and those in superior posts £5.

In addition to that we heard that some officers use their cars to carry out their duties. I would like Government to pay them for the use of their cars.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor** (Western Ijaw) : Mr Chairman, I just want to point out a certain thing in Clause 6 (3) that "Appointment of a special constable shall be made by the Governor-General or, subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of section 2, by a superior police officer." I feel he should endorse rather than make the appointment.



Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife)** : Mr Chairman, I rise to move the amendment in page C94, line 10, by adding, at the end, the words "The special constable so suspended or whose appointment is so determined shall have a right of appeal against such suspension or determination of appointment to the Inspector-General of Police who shall hear and determine such appeal".

*Amendment proposed.*

**The Prime Minister** : Mr Chairman, I would like to say that the Government accepts the amendment. (*Applause*).

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 8 and 9 agreed to.

Clause 10.

**Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai)** : Mr Chairman, I think that some information is necessary as to the reason why a special constable after having been subjected to all the obligations and penalties of a regular policeman is also to have this extra discipline envisaged in Clause 10, that is, he will be taken to court. I thought the other provision is a way of keeping away that neglect of duty. Why should the special constable be taken to court for that purpose?

**Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo)** : I would certainly like to support my learned Friend Mr Udochi on this point because normally a regular police constable when he neglects duty he is dismissed. He is not taken to court. Why should a special constable who only volunteers to assist in maintaining law and order, just because he refuses, perhaps he might have forgotten to go on duty, be taken to court? A volunteer, not even a regular! But a regular man when he absents himself from duty may be dismissed or reduced in rank. He is not taken to court. But a special constable will be taken to court, fined £5 for each day. So that if he absented himself for thirty days he will pay thirty times £5.

**The Prime Minister** : Surely, Sir, the hon. Members who raised this point know that the constables who are in the Police Force are somewhat different from these special constables. These officers have got certain conditions which regulate the discipline that is imposed upon them. They are salaried people,

and special constables do not receive a salary as my hon. Friend, Mr Tobun, has said. They receive some form of allowance. If a man enters into an agreement with his own knowledge and agrees to serve as a special constable and at the last minute he refuses to carry out an instruction, the House will agree that he has done something very bad.

**An hon. Member** : He should be dismissed.

**The Prime Minister** : Of course he will be dismissed, but if we allow this without some form of fine, this is not necessary because it has to be proved that he wilfully neglected to carry out his duty. I have no doubt that Members of the House will not agree to see people coming with their eyes wide open appending their names to certain agreement and then at the last minute, without giving the Government any chance to prepare they say : "Sorry we are not ready to serve."

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East)** : This provision is sufficient to scare away would-be special constables. I myself served during the war as a special constable. There are certain times when you are called for duty, you feel tired and you cannot go out. The reason given by the Prime Minister is the very reason why this provision should not be made. You say these people are not drawing salaries : they are only drawing allowance while regular police constables are getting salaries. How do you expect them to pay the fines? Regular police officers who are drawing salaries when they commit an offence of a similar nature you only dispense with their services. You must give us reasons why this additional punishment should be meted out to special constables as against the regular ones.

I do appreciate the point made that if you join the special constabulary force you must be prepared to bear all the burdens and be responsible enough to answer the call at a moment, but what we are not satisfied with is that there is no reason why there should be that distinction. Surely a man who joins a regular force is under an obligation to obey orders, and if he fails to obey orders there are certain punishments given to him. In addition to giving that form of punishment you still subject the special constable to court jurisdiction by his being dragged there.

This is too severe ; it will scare away people. With this type of thing people will say : "Why should I go and join the special constabulary



force?" If it is going to be voluntary let it be voluntary. Once you put in an element of coercion to that: "If you fail to attend this thing to-day you go to court and you are fined £5," for every refusal, for every neglect you pay £5, that is too burdensome.

**Mr N. A. Ezonbodor** (Western Ijaw): Mr Chairman, I am sorry to say this that the explanation given by the Prime Minister is not sufficient to impose this penalty on the special constables. Really we should know the type of people to be placed as special constables. They are respectable people, gentlemen, they have come into the country, they have come to help the people, simply because they are in duty bound to help the people. Now these people are only drawing allowances, they have no salaries. Knowing the nature of the people, simply because a superior police officer says: "Mr man, you go on duty," and the man says "I am very tired to go on duty." the police officer says: "Then you have disobeyed my orders," the next day you drag him to court. This is unnecessary. We have seen measures in the regular police force, they can be tried departmentally and given minor punishment. But to take this man to court and fine him, what will be the record of that man? The record will be indelible in the country. I would like the Prime Minister to see that this section is deleted.

**The Prime Minister:** I really cannot understand, just a short time ago some hon. Members were saying that hooligans should not be allowed to join this force. Irresponsible people should not be allowed to join this force. This is more or less a voluntary organisation. People who are prepared to serve their community, put themselves forward to give that service. If they do not put themselves forward to give this service the Government which is responsible for law and order will make another arrangement by which additional police could be obtained. But then in the last minute, for example, a special constable is called upon to perform his normal duties, and he refuses, my hon. Friend Mr Dosunmu is saying, he should just be kicked out. Well if five hundred join and they all refuse you kick them out. You will do nothing.

**Several hon. Members:** That would be mutiny.

**The Prime Minister:** Really, Mr Chairman, I can hardly understand the argument that these people should be treated in exactly the same way as constables in the Nigeria Police. The two groups are different though they perform more or less the same duties. I do hope, Sir, that hon. Members will try to encourage people to join this special force not with the spirit of getting any additional allowance, but with the spirit of giving the service to the country. What we are saying now, Sir, is that we shall make the conditions so loose that anybody can get away with any offence more or less by refusing to serve. If he can join the special constabulary force just for the name, so that they may have the uniform, and when the day comes for them to go out and work they say, "We are very sorry, we cannot, we are engaged"! My advice, Sir, is that we should look at this matter this way.

*Clause 10 agreed to.*

*Clauses 11 and 12 agreed to.*

*Clause 13.*

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would just like to give notice to the Prime Minister on the allowance going to be paid to these special constables, especially when they are attending a course of instruction. I understand, Sir, that those special constables already serving in the civil service have a daily ledger allowance ranging from 10s to £1 or more. I would like the Prime Minister to reconsider this in view of the fact that some of the special constables, superior officers like inspectors, when they are called out on duty, use their own money to hire a taxi and they are only given 10s or £1 as allowance.

I think the Prime Minister should consider this allowance in order to enable these superior officers to have sufficient funds to perform their duties. Normally when you see somebody as an inspector and you ask him to go and hire a taxi, and you pay him only 10s or £1, that is not commensurate with his expenses. I hope the time has come for this to be considered.

*Clause 13 agreed to.*

*Clause 14.*

**Dr E. U. Udoma** (Opobo): Mr Chairman, it is just a point that is not very clear in this clause. It provides that when a man dies he should be entitled to pension. I do not quite understand it. I do not know who is going to



[DR UDOMA]

sign for the pension. So I should have thought it would be more reasonable to talk of gratuity to the dependants than to talk of pension to the man who is dead. I do not know how a dead man can get pension. It is just a point of clarification. I do not quite understand it.

**The Prime Minister :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I can understand the difficulties of my hon. Friend because this is not a legal point. Pensions of course are given even to the dependants of people who died. It is not a matter of gratuity alone, but pensions are also granted to dependants of officers who died.

**Several hon. Members :** For how long ?

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu) :** Mr Chairman, I see no objection to that clause. A person may die but may still have to continue through a successor. So the clause may remain. I see no objection to it.

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) :** It is not a question of LL.B. We only want special clarification, what is meant by "pension" here, whether it connotes gratuity, because a dead person cannot be earning pension.

**The Prime Minister :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Member is too old to go to school.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** Do you hear that, that you are too old to go to school ?

**The Prime Minister :** I hope I can give him the meaning of those two words "pension" and "gratuity" if he meets me outside the House.

*Clause 14 agreed to.*

*Clauses 15 to 19 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported with an amendment.*

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

**Mr J. G. Adeniran (Ibadan West) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to make this remark about the special constables. As far as their work is concerned, they will be responsible for the preservation of public peace, protection of persons and the security of property; and while they will be responsible for all these sorts of duties they will be given only one day's training in the month. In my humble opinion,

Sir, this period of training is too short. These people should be well trained to meet any emergency. A man trained for one day in the month and for about three days in three months, and then is said to be fit to go and work; how could he manage to deal with armed robbers, and notorious murderers? I think these people should be properly trained. . . .

**An hon. Member :** For the Action Group hooligans.

**Mr Adeniran :** For the N.C.N.C. hooligans.

**Mr Speaker :** On Third Reading there is clearly no distinction of parties in this Bill.

**Mr Adeniran :** In addition to the general duties of the special constabulary, I would ask the Prime Minister to add this; that special constables, especially at the time of the Federal elections should be given powers to charge voters who may try to vote with ballot papers. . . (Interruption).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

#### EDUCATION (LAGOS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Education Bill 1957, No. 26 of 1957, be read a second time.

The House will recollect that it is the Government's policy to transfer responsibility for primary education in Lagos to the Lagos Town Council. The purpose of this short and non-contentious Bill is to amend the Education (Lagos) Ordinance of 1957 so that even though the responsibility for providing primary education will pass to the Lagos Town Council, the Minister will retain certain powers to direct the Town Council. (Applause.) (Some hon. Members : All powers.) Last year the Federal Government invited Sir John Imrie, an expert in local government matters, to Nigeria to look into the organisation of the Lagos Town Council and its relationship with the Federal Government. Among other matters discussed with Sir John Imrie was that of the best way of carrying out the transfer of responsibility for primary education. This Bill arises out of these discussions.

Under section 5 of the original Ordinance, the Minister may by order establish the Lagos Town Council to be the local education



authority in respect of the Federal Territory of Lagos. Under this Bill it is proposed to empower the Minister of Education to direct the Town Council in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him. It also empowers the Minister to institute by order an administrative scheme for carrying out the responsibility placed upon the Town Council. In consultation with the Lagos Town Council, the representatives saw the scheme already drawn up. The amendment to section 5 is designed to legislate for it.

Under section 8 (1) of the original Ordinance, a local education committee is created. Its functions include the performance on behalf of the authority of any functions conferred upon it by such authority relating to education. Its membership is prescribed in the Schedule.

In view of the responsibility of the Town Council for primary education, I propose that the Town Council should have a majority of members and should provide the chairman of this committee. I believe that the committee formed under the provisions of this Ordinance should act in this matter on behalf of the Town Council rather than any education committee which owes its existence to the Lagos Local Government Law, 1953.

This Bill also provides for correction of minor errors in the original Ordinance. Mr Speaker, Sir, the policy in regard to the transfer of responsibility for primary education to the Lagos Town Council is not new, and has been accepted at the last Constitutional Conference.

This Bill which I now commend to the House is designed to facilitate the implementation of that policy and to allow for the Minister to retain a measure of authority over the way in which primary education is handled in Lagos since he will still retain ultimate responsibility.

Sir, I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr L. L. Lakunle** (Oyo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Education for the splendid work he has been doing as far as primary education is concerned in Lagos. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now, Sir, I have no objection to the transfer of educational and other duties to the Lagos Town Council. But I would like the Minister to ensure that after the subject has been transferred to the Lagos Town Council, the staff are properly looked after so that the same conditions of service which obtain in the Federal Government also obtain in the Council because, at the present time, there are certain anomalies in the staff regulation or conditions of service in the Lagos Town Council. The staff of the Lagos Town Council do not have transport allowance for their annual leave, whereas the staff of the Federal Government, when they have their annual leave, are given some allowance for their transport. But the staff of the Lagos Town Council do not have any allowance, and some of them come from the Regions.

I would like the Minister to see that something is done in that respect. More often than not, when we wanted to raise the question of the staff of the Lagos Town Council, we were usually ruled out, because the L.T.C. is not under the Federal Government. But I would like the Minister to take the opportunity offered by the introduction of this Bill to see that the same good conditions of service which obtain in the Federal Government also obtain in the Lagos Town Council.

**Mr S. J. Una** (Uyo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, primary education in the Federal Territory of Lagos has a fresh impetus under the leadership of the Federal Minister of Education. (*Applause.*) I am now speaking in support of this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are all familiar with the magnificent school buildings that have sprung up in Lagos, and it is only natural that in view of the increasing demand for primary education and the alarming rate in which the primary education in Lagos is expanding, it is natural that, as the ultimate financial responsibility will fall upon the Federal Government, that there should be a transfer of authority.

Now, Mr Speaker, I have no quarrel at all with this Bill. We all know that it is necessary to ensure uniformity of staff.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.



[MR AJASIN]

have certain functions which will be laid down and the Minister should not be empowered to be able at any time to take over those functions of the Local Education Authority. That is what is referred to in this Bill and that is why I say that the amended Bill is suspicious.

I think there is something behind it, that the Minister should be able to control even after giving the power to the Lagos Town Council to become the Local Education Authority. The Minister still wants to control at any time. The Bill says "the direction and control of the Minister and any written direction or other instruction given by him shall be carried out by the authority". It is well known that the Minister is at the head of Education in Lagos territory but there is no need to state that he should be able at any time to control in the way it has been put down. The Education Code is sufficient and there is no need to put this amendment at all. I think it is done simply to restrict the powers of the Local Education Authority and I think the Minister will have to reconsider this matter and should not think that there will be an occasion for him to bring about this control of the activities of the Local Education Authority. So, Mr Speaker, I would urge that as soon as possible there should be a repeal of this amendment so that the Local Education Authority should be able to function unfettered.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): My remarks are going to be very short indeed. In the past, Mr Speaker, we had criticised a great deal the Minister of Education not realising that he was then preparing for the great task that was ahead of him. I am glad that the Minister was just marking time merely to collect his energy in order to produce something tangible for us, and he has done so.

Quite recently a lot of development has taken place with regard to Education in Lagos and this recent Bill, the Bill that is before the House, is an indication of the Minister's efficient work. But if free primary education is to be successful certain things must be taken into consideration. (1) There must be very

good buildings indeed and I am glad to say that the Minister has done everything towards providing very good school buildings for Lagos.

**An hon. Member** : Very good buildings ?

**M. Maitama Sule** : Certainly they must be because you must create an atmosphere under which the boys will work satisfactorily. Secondly, there must be good teachers. Teachers are absolutely necessary. I wonder whether Federal Government has got some scheme, a very bold scheme whereby they can get teachers trained. Regardless of the fact that we have got so many schools now functioning and there are very many teachers, still more teachers are needed. With the introduction of the free primary education in Lagos it becomes absolutely necessary for the Federal Government to have more teachers. There must be some bold scheme to get teachers. Teachers are lacking all over the country and I think this problem is not peculiar to Nigeria. It is true of all other countries in the world. There are not so many teachers. The Federal Government must do something to get teachers.

Now, this Education Bill, therefore, during the Second Reading of which I am taking an opportunity to congratulate the Minister for what he has done in the past, is timely and it is opportune because it gives us the opportunity to thank him for what he has done. I would also add in concluding that this power that is being transferred to the Lagos Town Council must not be allowed to be misused, because we have seen in the past how these people have misused power given to them, and we do not want the same thing to happen again. I am asking that the Minister should pay constant attention to this Town Council, and see that they make the best use of the powers that are now being transferred to them. (*Interruption*). The Rapson Report is a point in view, and you are now saying all sorts of things.

Mr Speaker, I support the Bill.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun** (Oshun East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to add to the congratulations which have been given to the Minister of



Education. As a matter of fact, I think that any unbiased visitor to Lagos will readily agree that the Federal Government is building not only schools for the present, but also schools for the future. (*Cheers*). There is nobody who will see any of these schools about the Federal territory of Lagos who would not like his children to enter them to absorb their learning. Mr Speaker, Sir (*Interruption*), I wonder if the Minister is not proud of the record of the primary education scheme in Lagos? In any case, whether he is proud of the record or not, we Members of this House are proud of the record. After all, you only need to use your two eyes to see what is being done. There is no doubt. Generally, compared with the type of things you find on the road when going to Ibadan, you find some houses. . . . I don't want to criticise, but you find these houses with mud walls, some of them almost breaking down. As windows you find mats; mats are all over the place as windows. And these are the places we are supposed to put our children.

Mr Speaker, if you find a school in Lagos you will find that many people are leaving the Western Region to let their children come to school in Lagos, because there is nobody who would like their children to go to school in the Western Region. In any case, the important thing about what is happening in Lagos is that there is no discrimination whatever in the way these grants are made.

The other day, when schools were to be built in Ibadan, you remember what happened, but I do not want to tell you about it now. We are satisfied that in building schools in Lagos the Government has an eye not only on the present, but also on the future welfare of this country.

Sir, after having praised the Minister, I want to take this opportunity of asking a question to which I hope the Minister will be able to reply, and that is about the fire which broke out the other time in the Federal Education Department. I remember a matter that was mentioned in the Motion on the Adjournment, and the Minister promised to let us know what investigations were put afoot. I hope that the Minister will be able to allay our fears, because some of our records have been destroyed, and we hope the Minister will be able to say something about that fire, that unfortunate incident. In any case, whatever I said, it

does not diminish by one iota from the good work done by the Minister of Education, and we take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister. I hope that sooner or later secondary education in Lagos will become also free.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree with those who say that the school buildings in Lagos are first-class. They are first-class because of the nature of the circumstances. They are first-class because they are in the Federal territory where, with all the buildings that are going on around, surely you would expect the school buildings to mark what is going on there. That is the second thing.

The third thing is the money the Federation has spent in building all these schools that we find here, and we are proud of them, but we must not shut our eyes if we are going to be realistic. And there are people who are fools at 20; they go on being fools at 25, and at 40, and 50 and 60, and even 80, like that man Chief Onvia. (*Interruption*). However, I am saying Sir, that those who want to talk about the free education, the free education scheme (*Interruption*).

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba):** Chief the hon. Solaru is discussing my personality! Mr Speaker, he has forgotten that an old man was once a child.

**Mr Speaker:** I do not think Chief Solaru's humour is ever meant to be unkind. If it was I would protect the hon. Chief.

**Chief Solaru:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I did not know that chiefs expressed their personalities in the way he is doing. However, the point is that if we are going to be realistic and not going playing the jester all the time, you will realise that the Western Government could not put up these buildings even if they had wanted to; they have not got the money. (*Interruption*). No, the fact is that they cut their coat according to their cloth. They admitted the impossibility; everyone said it was impossible. They said that even though people were going to sit under trees, they were going to have free primary education.

In any case, the Regional Governments of the North and East have not reached the Lagos standard because they are cutting their coat according to the cloth. Now let us get on to this Bill.



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]  
to Lagos Town Council and we know that at the present moment there seems to be quite a lot of politics in local councils.

I agree with him that the Lagos Town Council does not mean the Action Group or the N.C.N.C. or the N.P.C. Every party that has representation in that council belongs to that council and they all have common responsibility whether they are in Government or in opposition in that council. I think that it is right at this stage that certain powers be reserved so as to check anything likely to give the impression that Lagos Town Council is not behaving according to the principles of the Government.

That being the case there is another aspect of primary education which I would like to bring before the Minister of Education as this Bill is being passed. This is the question of Nurseries and Kindergartens for the young ones who ultimately will be the children who will go into the primary school in the Federal capital. I hope that before the Minister goes out of office he will initiate a policy of bringing about the introduction of Nurseries for the benefit of the children of the Federation, so that this will be a pointer to the Regions to institute such schools because at the moment you see children running about doing nothing and their mothers are tied down. If this is introduced mothers will be given the opportunity to make use of their time more profitably.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba) : There is only one point now I would like to make because I cannot go further than that. I think it is a very important point and that is that the Minister should see to it that the children who are compelled to come to Lagos with their parents to settle should not be exposed to any embarrassment by their qualifications for employment or for admission into schools. This is known to happen in Lagos and I have had the experience, I know what I am saying. I know that certain children who come to settle in Lagos with their parents from some region find it very difficult to gain admission into Lagos schools. These children are not responsible for coming here, and I ask the Minister to make it possible for these children to find a way in the whole Federation for a uniform standard which may eliminate this difficulty.

There are those who have no children coming here and may not know what I am saying, but when it affects some of you, you will know that certain children coming from certain Regions are really finding it difficult to gain admission into schools. At this point I want to bring it clearly to the notice of the Minister so that in implementing the law he will know what to do in order that he may make all the children of Nigeria as coming from one country.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

#### PORTS (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL

*Order for second reading read.*

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Ports Ordinance 1954 be now read a Second Time.

Sir, it is the declared policy of this Government to encourage overseas investment in Nigeria, including investment in our statutory corporations. And this has also enjoyed the support of all sides of this House. The Nigerian Ports Authority plays a full part in our economy and as our trade expands it is faced with the need to provide additional facilities to handle the additional traffic which comes to our ports.

Sections 29 and 30 of the Ports Ordinance enable the Authority to issue debenture stock and also to raise capital loans. I am informed however, that certain sections of the Ordinance which this Bill proposes to amend are likely to discourage overseas private investors in view of the very close control imposed by the Ordinance on certain aspects of the business of the Authority. The purpose of this Bill, in short, is therefore to provide a measure of greater freedom for the Authority in the day-to-day conduct of its business while safeguarding the ultimate control which is exercised by the Federal Government.

*The Objects and Reasons* attached to the Bill give outlines of the proposed Amendment and I do not intend to repeat them, but I will refer hon. Members to clause 4 which seeks to delete the word "debenture" both capital and small, wherever it appears in section 9. The object of this Clause is to avoid giving Govern-



ment stock a prior charge over the borrowings from the Market or from other institutions by making such stock debenture stock instead of ordinary stock. So by removing the term "debenture" the Government stock will not have priority over private stock and it will be easier for the Authority to obtain external loans for its expansion.

Also, I would like to draw attention to two particular handicaps under which the Authority has to work as the law now stands. These will be found in sections 27 and 82. Section 27 of the Ordinance stipulates in great detail the order in which the Authority is obliged to meet charges on its revenue. And, secondly, the effect of section 82 is to provide that any increases in individual charges require the specific approval of the Minister before they can be put into force. This requirement is not imposed on the other statutory corporations. The purpose of this Bill is therefore to provide for greater flexibility in the conduct of the daily business of the Authority while ensuring that the Minister retains full control of the maximum charges that the Authority can impose at any given time. These proposed changes will make for greater commercial efficiency and will be more likely therefore to make investment in the Authority attractive to overseas capital.

With one exception, all the other Amendments proposed in the Bill are directed to this same purpose. This single exception is a purely formal one, and that is of substituting the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company Limited for Marketing Board which appears in section 28 of the present Ordinance. The Central Marketing Board no longer exists and the place of this Board has been taken by the Nigerian Produce Company Limited. This is a purely formal change and it is quite consequential on the law we have passed, I think, sometime last year. I have therefore taken the opportunity of bringing the matter up to date.

This Bill is quite straightforward and non-contentious and I commend it to the approval of this House.

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

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Clause 3.*

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East) : In Clause 3, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister and the Members to subsection 8 in Clause 3, where it says "The Governor-General in Council may at any time remove from office all or any of the appointed members of the Authority, other than the Chairman, if he considers it necessary to do so in the interest of the effective and economical performance of the functions of the Authority."

There are two things there, Sir. The Chairman is exempted. If it is not economical to appoint the Chairman I suppose you will just retain him there. But there are others who I think you will remove if their appointment seems to be interfering with the effective and economical performance of the duties of the Authority. I would like the Minister to explain to us what he has in mind, what is at the bottom of this. It means that you appoint members to the Authority and then you find they are too expensive, too cumbersome, or they are impeding the functions of the Authority. One does not understand. Could not the Chairman be just as expensive and just as inconvenient? What is really at the bottom of that clause I would like to know, Sir.

**The Minister of Transport** : Mr Chairman, Sir, the provisions in the principal Ordinance deal with the position of Chairman and his appointment and the removal, etc. If this particular clause is inserted to bring this statutory corporation in accord with law, to bring it under the same law governing the other corporations, we have in mind that it may well be that the occasion may arise when the presence of certain appointed members may hamper the work of the corporation to such an extent that it may be necessary to remove them. There is a proviso—I refer the hon. Chief T. T. Solaru to the proviso. The proviso makes special provision for people who are appointed on the recommendation of the Regions. On these ones the Regions will have to be consulted. One thing is certain ; these statutory corporations are made to run on commercial lines and we expect them to function economically and to be able to pay their way. Therefore, there



[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]  
must be powers provided in our laws for dealing with members who become either a drag on the progress of the Authority or whose presence becomes inimical to the general progress of the Authority. That is the reason, and such power is included as regards other corporations and statutory bodies.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Chairman, Sir, this explanation the Minister has given me now has just poured petrol on to the fire. In other words, the Minister wants to tell us that if a Chairman feels that the presence of certain members in the Corporation is inimical to their interest he can recommend to the Minister that these certain members should be removed. I know, Sir, very well that as long as the Minister is there he will not allow such a thing to happen, but it is quite possible, I speak from practical experience. We have had sometimes to fight with the Chief Executive Officer about certain policies and we find sometimes contracts will have to be given to certain firms, that we feel it will be inimical to the interest of the Corporation. We had a row over the whole thing; in the end we settled the thing amicably.

In the Ports Authority, we have one man Chairman and at the same time Chief Executive Officer. You find people who are appointed either by the Regions or by the Federal Government who, when they get there, feel that certain things are not being done as they should be done. Then the man says, "Well, you must appreciate I am the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and my word is final", and there is a clash of interests. What will you say then? Will you say that because these people who feel honestly and sincerely that they are doing their best for that Corporation, and this man uses his special powers to see that these people are got out? This is a very dangerous thing. If this clause should not be cut out I think the Minister should remove these four words.

The Governor-General may remove anybody whether Chairman or member. For instance, if members of the Corporation can prove to the Minister that the policy the Chairman is pursuing is not in the best interests of the Corporation, it would be competent for the Minister to examine it, investigate it and if they are correct, taking facts and

figures, the Chairman may be told, "You have served us well, thank you very much", and then, "Look for a new job". And if it turns out that the members are the people who are at fault, the Governor-General should be there to remove such members.

To put a discriminatory passage here "other than the Chairman" is to indirectly protect this white man against the majority. I am speaking with an inside knowledge of what can happen. There was a time when we wanted certain people to be in a certain position; he said "No, it will be like this". Then we had to fight it, and fight until ultimately we were successful. If the Chairman knows that he is exempted, he will make more trouble than the Minister is aware of now, particularly when these corporations are going completely out of the region of the House.

So I would beg the Minister to consider leaving out these words; they should have the same power over everybody otherwise it would be discriminatory and most unfair to members.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Chairman, Sir, the fear that I entertained is rather heightened by the explanation of the Minister. Instead of assisting us to help you, you arouse our suspicions as if now certain things have come to your knowledge and these laws are being made in order to wriggle out of a certain situation. It is true that members who are appointed to corporations are supposed to have independent minds, and that out of the clash of minds upon minds something durable is forged. But if you have a Chairman who considers the presence of certain members, as the hon. Jaja Wachuku has said, is inconvenient you can see how much misuse is going to be done.

No one is afraid of the Minister, that he would exercise these powers wrongly; but then, what can you do when an Executive tells us, "I cannot work with this man, he is always making trouble". With this kind of regulation, the hon. Jaja Wachuku would have been shut out. He could not have endured for one month in the Electricity Corporation, yet to-day because of that agitation we are now seeing the result of the Electricity Corporation. Why should members be "yes-men". Only people who toe the line will be afraid because they might be reported and then they will be thrown away. I think it is in the interest of what I said on another occasion, that democracy



*House of Representatives Debates*

2165

[Lagos Town Planning

17 AUGUST 1959 (Amendment) Bill : Second Reading] 2166

is a clumsy form of Government ; if you want to have democracy in this House you should have stifled all opposition. Everybody here will say, "Yes, Sir", "*Salaam, salaam, salaam*" and then you can pass everything.

**Several hon. Members :** What does that mean ?

**Chief Solaru :** "*Salaam*" means "Peace".

But you tolerated this because you said, let every man exercise his prerogative of expressing his mind. Mr Chairman, Sir, the point I want to make is that the Minister should realise that just as he wants a democratic Government in this country so we want a democratic board in our corporations. They cannot be a law unto themselves. As a matter of fact, I know that if this law was passed without any amendment to it now or in the near future, to remedy this position you would find the Ports Authority worse than ever. Already now there is complaint that the last strong-hold of expatriates in this country is in the Ports Authority, and any member who dares to raise a finger and ask "When are we going to do this or that ?", will be the inconvenient member. As a matter of fact, we are the inconvenient Members in this House. If there is a way of getting rid of representative Governments people would have done it long ago. We cannot sit here and be asked to vote away the powers and privileges of the country of Nigeria. After all, we are here to express our views. If you do not agree with them let the majority decide. What is sauce for the goose in the House should be sauce for the gander in the corporations.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu) :** Mr Chairman, this is a very unfortunate clause. I mean, it is obnoxious. Well, what it indicates is that people like Jaja Anucha Wachuku cannot serve on this Board because there may be a topic which he will want to debate for two days and they will only send you a message that this man is obstructing the work while he is defending something. Let me remind the Minister of Transport of this ; when he, Mr Mbu and myself served on the Board of the E.R.D.C. at Enugu, he knows how many hours we raised many questions on the working of that Board to get it straight and we did leave it a very strong Board. It means that under this clause any Chairman may say that these three people are very troublesome chaps and how

they will word the presentation to the Minister in charge will be so clear and so lucid and since the facts are not available you will act on the information before you. I think that to leave this clause like this will be really very dangerous and the Minister should do the wise thing. It does not mean that if it is in the Railway Corporation or any other Corporation that is why it should be in the Ports Authority.

Another thing is that it is a reflection on the Minister who makes the appointment. Before you appoint somebody to the Board you must first find out whether the person you are appointing is qualified to do the job, the nature of the job that is to be done and then find the right person to do the job and once you send him to be a Member of that Board you should give him all confidence. But you do not want us to expect you to appoint any and everybody and then two days later come back and say the man is not qualified to do the job and he must be thrown out.

Mr Chairman, this is a very unfortunate clause and at this time that we are having our last meeting to go with the happiest memory we do not want to feel that something obnoxious has been introduced which has put a limit to the Members that are appointed to the Board. Since there is no amendment before this House, the Minister having taken the views of all the Members, will do something about this.

**The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) :** Mr Chairman, I want to assure the hon. Gentlemen who have spoken that there is really no ground for these fears which they have expressed. The Chairman is appointed by agreement and his tenure of office is governed by the terms of agreement so that Government has the power to remove the Chairman if he is not doing his work. You see the point, that is where you are covered because you are saying that if there is provision for removal of any appointed Member there should also be provision for removing the Chairman. That is there already under the contract. So that is the answer there.

Now, I want also to assure hon. Members that this power is not being given to the Chairman or to any executive, and, as far as I know, there is no dispute whatever and there are no reports coming to my Ministry that any Member of the Ports Authority, which has been in existence for five years, is giving



[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT]  
so much trouble that he ought to be removed. There has been nothing like that for the five years and therefore there is no need for us to expect that because of this provision that trouble will arise tomorrow. Anybody who is a Member of the Ports Authority or any statutory corporation can argue any matter before that Authority to his heart's content and that will not prejudice his tenure of office during that period. I really want to appeal to hon. Members not to press this point. There is no need whatever. The Chairman's position is covered by the agreement under which he is appointed.

**Mr U. O. Ndem** (Calabar): Mr Chairman, Sir, I quite appreciate the dilemma in which the Minister finds himself as far as this clause is concerned. After all, what we should like to know is this. Who recommends to the Governor-General the removal of the Members of this Board? There must be some authority which has to recommend to the Governor-General. From all accounts we know that it would be the Chairman. Well, if the Chairman is going to have such great powers as to be able to dispose of his Members if he so desires, I think it will be a very dangerous thing indeed. As a matter of fact there is no reason whatsoever to include this kind of provision in our law.

I would like the Minister to tell me whether in the Railway Corporation he has a similar provision or whether in the Electricity Corporation there is a similar provision and whether in the Broadcasting Corporation there is a similar provision. Well, if we know what are provided for along the lines which the Minister is providing in this Bill, then we might understand the situation.

Sir, I think it will be very unwise of this House to give a Chairman of any Corporation whatsoever such wide powers as to make him able to remove Members of his Board with whom he is at variance. I think, Sir, that the Minister will be very wise to withdraw this particular clause.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun** (Oshun East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would just like to read this clause. It reads as follows—"The Governor-General in Council may. . . ."

**The Chairman**: I think we have all read it. The words are "other than the Chairman", everybody knows that.

**Chief Balogun**: All right, Mr Chairman, if you object, the purpose of my reading it really is that the way some Members have spoken about this clause it looks as if it has been written in this section that the Chairman can really recommend the removal of a Member. But if a person takes trouble to read this section clearly it will be seen that there is no Chairman who has been given any power in this Bill to authorise the removal of a Member. If I may say so, Sir, it says "The Governor-General in Council may at any time remove from office all or any of the appointed members of the Committee other than the Chairman if he considers it necessary in the interest of the effective and economical performance of the functions of the authority".

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that the wording of this Ordinance is very clear. (*Interruptions*). I wish that the small group there would concede to other Members the right to speak their minds. (*Applause*). Mr Chairman, no matter their interruptions, I am going to speak my mind on the Floor of this House. It is my own view that there is nothing bad in this clause. . . . (*Interruption by the Minister of Health.*) If the Minister of Health is not happy being there in the Government to support them, he should come down here. We want to know, Mr Chairman, whether the Minister of Health is in the Government or whether he is outside the Government. If he is in the Government, he is in duty bound to support it. (*Interruptions*).

**An hon. Member**: Are you going back to the D.P.N.C.?

**Chief Kolawole Balogun**: May I inform that hon. Gentleman there that I am not going back to the D.P.N.C. (*Loud applause*). As a matter of fact, Mr Chairman, it is when people have no argument that they go to the fence.

What I am saying is that there is nothing in this Bill which suggests that the Chairman of a Corporation can remove any Member. As a matter of fact it is insulting to the people of this country and to their integrity to suggest that a Chairman can recommend to a Minister that a member of the Corporation be removed from the board merely because the Chairman does not agree with such a member. We have all served on such boards before. . . . (*Interruptions*). Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to inform that group that the more they interrupt me the stronger I grow.



Now, Sir, it is insulting to the intelligence of this country that a Chairman should have the effrontery to recommend that a national of this country should be removed from a board merely because that member does not agree with the Chairman. We have all served on these boards and corporations, and it is within living memory that a thing of that nature has never happened, and it is my belief, Mr Chairman, that it will never happen. So, Sir, I want hon. Members of this House not to listen to the noise of that group there but to support this clause. (*Applause*).

**Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo)**: Mr Chairman, I would like to point out that I do not think there is any insult greater than being expelled from a party and going back to it.

**The Chairman**: That is strictly irrelevant. (*Several hon. Members: Shame! Shame! Shame!*) That is an offensive remark and I will ask Dr Udoma to do nothing of the kind again.

**Dr Udoma**: I am so sorry, Mr Chairman. But the remark I propose to make is this. When a board or a corporation works, naturally the only direct communication the Minister has with that board is through the Chairman, and it is only common sense that it is only the Chairman that could give direct information to the Minister from which the Minister is going to act; and the Minister cannot act above the head of the Chairman. So that it does not make any sense to say that the Minister will require a detective and tell him which member of the board is either irresponsible or obstructive. I would say that it is discriminatory to say that only other members, that is members other than the Chairman, who should be removed. I think in the first instance, it will show that the Minister, in making appointments, does not know the people he has to appoint to this board; he is not sure of their integrity and he is not sure that they will be able to carry out the functions they are supposed to carry out. \*And it is a wrong policy to appoint people who are not capable, people likely to be obstructive to any creative suggestion in any corporation or board. To appoint them to such board I think it will be a very sad day that a person should be appointed to a corporation and perhaps within six months of his appointment he is asked to go away. I am saying that it is a very serious matter which the Minister should consider.

The other point about this is that when one looks at the section itself, the Minister says that the Chairman has to be appointed under an agreement. Is he suggesting that members should be appointed to the board perpetually, that they have no time limit? Some of them serve for three years, some may serve for more and some less. Within that time the Minister still has the right to say that the Members should serve their period and not be appointed again. But to say that the members could be asked to go away, I think it will make for instability. The Corporation deserves continuity of programme. I think that the Minister will be able to indicate in the letter of appointment what period of time a member is going to serve on the corporation. (*Some hon. Members: Three years.*) If that is really down, then the Minister must have to convince this House that there will be such serious situation of emergency that a member will have to be ordered out of the corporation to which he has been appointed. I am saying that if it is true, and we think it is true, that members are appointed to serve for a limited period in the same manner as the Chairman is appointed under agreement to serve for a limited period subject to renewal, there is no reason why the same condition should not apply to the other members.

I am calling upon the Minister to accept the suggestion to leave out "other than the chairman" so that everybody comes under the same conditions of service. The chairman could be removed; anybody else could be removed. If the Minister says that the power might not be exercised, all well and good, because the chairman will be under an agreement, so if the power is not exercised he will still be bound by his agreement. But to try to discriminate between the chairman and the other members is not going to make for confidence among members who have to serve the corporation. People should be able to go there and speak their minds and say exactly what they feel should be done in the interests of the country. After all people who are appointed to these boards go there to serve the country. They are supposed to make concrete suggestions to assist the functions of the corporation. But if one is in fear that if he says something he might be reported and be asked to go, it will be difficult to get a real spirit of service in these corporations. I think the Minister will take



[DR UDOMA]

it very seriously. We know how the civil service operates. Some civil servants might even be sacked just because of some report. Sometimes they are given a long query to answer to show cause why they should not be sacked. The Chairman might be giving information; the Secretary might be giving information to the Minister that this man has not given good service.

I appeal to the Minister to reconsider his stand and see whether he would not accept the suggestion that these three or four words should be removed from the clause.

**The Minister of Transport :** Mr Chairman, I have assured hon. Members that the Governor-General in Council already has the powers which they are asking that they should have in respect of the Chairman. And to prove to them that that is so, I would agree that the four words "other than the chairman" may be deleted from the clause. (*Applause.*)

**The Chairman :** On the question that the clause stand part, it is too late for amendment. There are two alternatives, if the Government wishes to do that, either to do it on recommittal or to take the proceedings. Does the Minister wish to do it on recommittal?

**The Minister of Transport :** Yes, on recommittal.

**The Chairman :** The point is, if hon. Members would read a Bill before we come to debate it, and make up their minds whether they want to amend it or not instead of springing these amendments at the last moment. It is too late to start amending it. The Minister has given an assurance that the words make no difference. If he wishes, I will either fake the proceedings, which I do not like, or do the amendment on recommittal.

**The Minister of Transport :** I would like the the Bill to be recommitted.

**The Chairman :** In that case we can take clause 3 as it stands now.

*Clauses 3 to 8 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment and recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of an amendment to Clause 3.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clause 3 proposed.*

**The Minister of Transport :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move in clause 3 (b), to leave out from the word "Authority" to the word "Chairman" in line 18.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, while we are willing to accept this amendment, I want to say that there is still a threat in that clause, because the Governor-General in Council may at any time remove from office all or any of the appointed members of the Authority if he considers it necessary to do so "in the interests of the effective and economical performance of the functions of the Authority". I do not want to make any further amendments, but I could put up a suggestion there. What I am saying there is this. The Minister who spoke on this clause and my learned Friend felt there was nothing wrong. First of all, when you consider the last two lines, "in the interests of the effective and economical performance of the functions of the Authority", this Bill is not a Bill dealing with all the corporations; it is dealing with the Ports Authority alone. In the composition of the Authority where the Chairman is also the General Manager it is quite clear that the person who determines the effective and economical performance of the functions of the Authority is the Chairman and General Manager, unlike the E.C.N. where you have a division of function—you have three arms: the Chairman, the General Manager, and the members of the board.

Now, Sir, I am only saying this to the Minister, to be vigilant because I am sure, Sir, that members of the Ports Authority were not consulted when this was being prepared, and we know that any Bill that comes before the House is usually husbanded by either the head of department or, in the corporation, by the Chief Executive Officer, as the case may be. And that being the case, I want the Minister to be very vigilant about this to make sure that no person is working just because somebody thinks or just because that person thinks it is inimical "to the effective and economical performance of the functions of the Authority". I want that point to go on paper.



*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

**The Minister of Transport :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to report the *Bill* on recomittal with an amendment and now move that it be read the Third Time and passed.

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Hon. J. M. Johnson) : Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Dr. E. O. Awduche** (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to indicate that the clause that we have amended has in practice the same meaning that it had before the amendment, and that we rely strictly on the Minister's assurance and on the Speaker's sincerity in recommitting it to allow that little amendment. I hope that under no circumstances will occasion arise which will entail the removal of any Member of the Corporation until he has served his term.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I thought that the Council of Ministers and the Members of this House belong to the same team. I thought that we were playing the same game. I did not realise that our Council of Ministers could allow themselves to be the tool of an outside body, people who ought to serve them but who are cleverer than they. Immediately the Amendment was being proposed some people were very happy, so happy that they opened their mouths very widely. I am pointing out that Members of the Corporation should be able to serve without fear. We have entrenched into our law a Clause that stands as a dagger over their heads and just because we said that it should apply to the ordinary man as it applies to the Chairman on the Board so they open their mouths very widely and think that they can mock and fool all of us.

If you are really fighting in the national interest what right has anybody to leer and heave upon us just because we do not happen to be hirelings like you people. If this *Bill* is passed and anybody falls under the sword of this law then the blood will be upon his head. How can you rest on your oars. (*Interruption*). This is a matter of fact. Members of the Ports Authority are going to be appointed

according to the party men. It is not an Action Grouper who is on the Ports Authority that I am talking about. It can be any man who happens to be appointed.

**An hon. Member :** Sit down.

**Chief Solaru :** That is the kind of quising which this country will not stand. They are now appearing before you. Quislings of the Government Bench, quislings of Government supporters. You see that is the point. The expatriates are. . . . .

**Mr Speaker :** The House is considering the Third Reading of the *Bill*.

**Chief Solaru :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I realise this is the Third Reading but I could have let it pass if I did not see a leer of triumph on the faces of some people here. They ought to be ashamed of themselves that they have deceived this country and deceived our Ministers. If you have any personal vendetta you should not have won it in this way and the country will see to it. If anybody falls under this hammer there will be hue and cry, mark it. This is not what is done in other civilised countries. Of course, we are savages and tribes which have hardly emerged but I tell you, Sir, that it will not be very long. I have served on other Committees before and the lot of what these despicable people say—thank God they did not say it—(*Interruptions*) with the despicable leer of triumph on their faces. . . .

**The Minister of Transport** (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say to this hon. House that the Chairman of the Ports Authority is a first class gentleman. (*Interruption.*) Wait a minute. You have had your say. The Chairman of the Ports Authority is on the best terms with members of the Authority. I also want to say that there is no official of the Ports Authority here in the official box. Whether you have a telescope or something I do not know but there is no member of the Ports Authority here and nobody from the official box passed any notes to us here. I also want to assure the House that there will be no question of victimisation of members of the Authority (*Applause*).

*Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third Time.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba) : I have watched my Friends on my right and left. I think we must watch that this *Bill* is not (*Interruption*)



**[Mr Jaja Wachuku]**

I want to take this opportunity to mention Sir, one of the difficulties people are experiencing in connection with building here. It is unfortunate that my learned Friend Mr Benson is not interested. He finds himself between two stools ; he is acting Chairman of the L.E.D.B. and he finds himself as a member representing Lagos, and as such finds himself in great difficulty. Now, Sir, the people who are now being dispossessed by the L.E.D.B. find it practically impossible to have the opportunity even to have the money to be able to make plans to submit to L.E.D.B. When their buildings are broken down they find they have no money to make plans they rush to the Syrians and sell the lands to them. The Syrians go to the Bank and borrow money and buy over the land. The land thus passes over to an alien.

I am calling on the Minister if he can reduce this thing to enable these people so that they will be able to make plans for their lands and later have money to build. It is a very dangerous process because it is inimical to the interest of the natives. With these remarks I sincerely want the Minister to explain this point and to take steps to see that the lands do not go to the Syrians and aliens because these people are not able to build, and they are not able to take back their land, due to lack of funds.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill I merely wish to remark that what is probably not clearly understood is that the L.E.D.B. want to charge fees for plans. What about the L.T.C.? Where do they stand? They charge too, which means that the L.T.C. and L.E.D.B. will be charging fees. Why cannot their efforts be co-ordinated. However, this by the way.

While arguing about plans and money and the money that is going to be charged for making these plans what is the L.E.D.B. or the L.T.C. doing to make Lagos a fit capital for the Federation? I suppose they all want to adorn Lagos. I wonder what they have been doing. If the Town Council cannot pay for it what is the L.E.D.B. doing about it. Are we going to allow the influx of visitors into Lagos? What about the night functions. Will they be marred by this nuisance of soil removal in the primitive ways it is being done? What about the gutters and the drains? Who is

planning for these and who is going to pay for these? I would like the Minister to answer. What are you doing for the health of people of Lagos? What about the plans for the sanitation of Lagos?

**The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji):** I am in sympathy with my Friend Chief T. T. Solaru about the sanitary conditions of Lagos.. (Interruption).

**Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central):** Point of order. On a matter of relevance.

**Mr Speaker:** The Minister I think could answer the points already made.

**The Minister of Health:** I have already set up a committee which will plan the sanitation of Lagos at least during the celebration of Independence. I should like to seize this opportunity.....

**Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri):** On point of order, Mr Speaker. I do not think the Minister has complied with section 26 (2) of the Standing Orders. The Minister is still making irrelevant statements.

**Mr Speaker:** Will the Minister please relate his answers accordingly.

**The Minister of Health:** I should like to seize this opportunity in asking the public to assist in carrying the campaign to keep Lagos clean.

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin):** I have certain observation to make. The clause reads as follows "the payment to the Board by persons making an application under this Ordinance for fees for the consideration by the Board of any building plans submitted for the purpose of the application". I would like to ask the Minister to be very careful and to see that a receipt is issued for any payment so that we may not experience a similar thing to that of the market stalls in Lagos.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the L.E.D.B. deserves the praise of this House before the last curtain falls. They have been doing very good work. The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power appealed to us in helping to develop and we came forward to assist by erecting more buildings. Now he is asking us to pay fees for the plans. But, Mr Speaker, he was hard pressed at one time to get people to take interest, now they are taking interest and



many buildings are going on in Apapa, in Central Lagos and all over Lagos, beautiful buildings are going on—at least that is a tribute to those who are planning it but this question of fees retards progress. Now he says that there are about 2000 plans a year, according to the Minister when he was making his speech on this Bill. If it is 2000 plans a year and he says that they could acquire money in the neighbourhood of £8,000 then it means the cost will be £4 per plan. Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not quarrel with this since people who want things must pay but it has limitation.

I want the Minister to tell this House how we can reconcile the payments to be made to L.T.C. and the payments to be made to L.E.D.B. and whether it would be too high. Again how are we going to pay one-fifth and if these two bodies are going to the same type of work could they not divide whatever fee is paid. Once we get this assurance that this thing is not going to be exorbitant and drive people away from making their plans then I do not see why people cannot pay a minimum fee to help us. But first we must get the assurance of the Minister.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Sitting suspended : 11 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 11.15 p.m.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

QUEEN'S GARDENS AND GLOVER HALL  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Queen's Gardens and Glover Hall Ordinance be read a Second Time. This is a straight-forward and

non-controversial Bill and I do not think that the House will wish to spend very much time on it. Nevertheless, I think perhaps I should give hon. Members a brief summary of the history of the Glover Hall and of the reasons which make these amendments necessary.

An Ordinance to provide for the control, management and maintenance of the Queen's Gardens and Glover Hall was first enacted in 1898 and the present Ordinance has remained virtually unchanged since 1921. The purpose of the Ordinance was to vest in a Board of Trustees certain land and buildings on the Marina as a memorial to Governor Glover. The history of the site dates from the beginnings of modern Lagos and the front portion of it was occupied by the old Customs House (which is known to have been in existence in 1866). A further area of land was purchased by the Government in 1866 and the whole area was conveyed to the Glover Memorial Committee, as the present Trust was then called, by a Crown grant in 1887. The funds for the construction of the Hall were subscribed by members of the public with Government assistance by way of an interest-free loan.

The physical condition of Glover Hall has been causing the Trustees, a body of 14 men made up of seven African and seven European Trustees, considerable anxiety for some years and it is now in a very deplorable and dangerous state. A proposal to rebuild the Hall was first considered as long ago as 1946, but the Trustees' application for development funds for the purpose was turned down. Various other schemes have been drawn up by the Trustees since then, but they have all had to be abandoned because applications for loans for re-development of the site put forward at various times to the Central Government, the Western Regional Government and the Federal Government—and also to the Lagos Town Council—were unsuccessful. The Trustees have finally rejected the idea of renovating the Hall and have decided that it should be demolished and this valuable site redeveloped within the spirit of the present Ordinance to the greatest advantage of the people of Lagos. To do this, however, it has become clear that financial assistance must be sought from outside and the Trustees have succeeded in interesting the Colonial Development Corporation in the project. As a result of this, plans have been prepared for the redevelopment of the site and



[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU RIBADU]  
it is proposed that a special company should be formed to carry out the work at a cost of about £750,000. The Trustees hope to lease off a portion of the site for approved commercial development at a low ground rent, but without financial commitment to themselves in return for the provision of a fine new hall—which will cost about £100,000—free of charge to the Trustees.

As the Ordinance now stands, the Trustees are not in a position to carry out this highly desirable scheme of redevelopment because of the restricted nature of their powers. This Bill, therefore, amends the principal Ordinance, by setting out a new list of powers, based on the English Trustee Act, 1925, designed to enable the Trustees to take full advantage of the possibilities for redevelopment of the site. These revised powers are set out in the Second Schedule added by clause 7 of the Bill. At the same time the opportunity has been taken to tidy up the Ordinance and, in particular to delete the present objectionable references to separate Native and European Trustees.

Hon. Members will see, Sir, that clause 3 provides for sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the principal Ordinance to be repealed and replaced. The new section 2 sets out specifically the purpose of the Trust; section 3 will now define closely the area of land vested in the Trustees, while the new section 4, together with the first Schedule provides for the appointment of the Trustees and defines their constitution. Under this section too, the Trust property is automatically vested in the existing and newly appointed Trustees thereby enabling an investigation of title by a purchaser or lessee to be carried out and it is further provided that a certificate signed by the Minister listing the names of the Trustees is sufficient evidence of their existence.

Clause 4 amends section 10 by removing the requirement that to form a quorum at least two European trustees must be present at a meeting and section 15 (1) is amended by clause 5 by deleting the provision that a trustee may only be appointed as Secretary gratuitously. The appropriate provisions of various other sections of the principal Ordinance have been embodied in clause 3 and the repeal of those sections is therefore effected by clause 6. The two Schedules to which I have already referred are inserted by clause 7, and clause 8 lists the transitional provisions.

The Bill, Sir, is as simple as that. I feel that it is overdue and I do not think the House will wish to quarrel with it in any way. Sir, I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir in rising to support the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, I think it is necessary here to pay special tributes to the present Chairman of the Board of Trustees because it is largely through him, Sir, that renewed enthusiasm has been brought into this Trust. Some two or three years ago it was becoming obvious that the Trust was failing because it was becoming difficult for the objectives which animated the creation of this Trust to be realised. The Hall is no longer worthy of being referred to as a public hall let alone one worthy of the Federal capital of Nigeria. But as the hon. Minister has rightly pointed out, serious efforts were made by the Trustees to get financial help from all corners of the world in order to enable the Trustees to fulfil the objects of the Trust but this financial assistance was not forthcoming. As I said it was largely due to the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees that some ray of hope is now seen that the Trustees will be able to give to the people of Lagos a true Hall that will serve the very purpose. Again, one would have to thank the Minister for quickly responding to the request of the Trustees. If it had been a tardy Minister it would not have been possible for this Bill to see the light of day, and except the old law is radically changed the hands of the Trustees, as it were, are tied because they had to work within the objects of the Trust that were in the old law of the 19th century which made it impossible for them to work. But with these new amendments the field is now wide and the Trustees have a good opportunity of achieving the very objectives of the Trust.

Again, this new Bill now takes away the anachronism of native trustees and European trustees. They are very revolting expressions. They might be good in 1919 or 1819 when they were in the Statute Book, but the opportunity that the Minister has taken to remove that offensive restriction is indeed welcome. As the Minister has rightly pointed out, now that the Trustees have their hands free and can now



pursue the objectives of the Trust with finance being available, I have no doubt that Lagos people will again have to thank Governor Glover who donated this piece of land to them and will be able to provide a good forum not only for public meetings and lectures but social enjoyment of the people of the Federal territory of Lagos.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I heard the Minister mention something about some commercial persons interested. Can he explain to us this particular aspect because I notice in the Second Schedule that the Trustees now have powers to sell. I do not know how far the commercial interests are involved in this piece of land and I would like to be clear in my mind the extent to which the commercial aspect of this Bill affects the existing Trust. I am a bit worried because this is a very valuable piece of land at the Marina.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power**: Mr Speaker, Sir, the land will remain the property of the Trustees. As I said in my speech, and as the hon. Member himself knows, the state of the Glover Hall to-day is very appalling and such that it has to be demolished and rebuilt. The Trustees could not obtain the money, but they have now negotiated with the C.D.C. who made the loan of £750,000 available to them and this loan must be repaid and the only way the loan can be repaid is to build a Hall in front at the Marina to be used for public lectures, social gatherings and the rest and at the back of the Hall a commercial building, a very imposing one, should be put up to be leased to commercial houses to earn income which will be applied to repay the debt.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am most grateful to the Minister because his answer one way or the other has affected my speech. I had a fear then that it might be that he would now have to cut out a piece of land and sell. But I am satisfied that the step that has been adapted is very commendable because it means that the amenities to be provided will still be there and then you have a portion that will be earning income regularly in order to contribute to the loan.

Now, Sir, I would like to say this, that apart from this aspect of it, I sincerely hope that the Government will try also to give some grants to

assist in one form or the other in order to liquidate the loan as quickly as possible. It is true that the land is Government property, but I think that the service that is being rendered by the Glover Hall to the public as a whole is not only confined to the trustees alone. Every political party in this country has held a meeting in the Glover Hall, and I do not see the reason why we should not ask the Government to try somehow—it does not matter how small—the Minister of Finance should try also to lend some helping hand to enable them to liquidate this loan as quickly as possible.

I am very happy to know that the Glover Hall is going to be demolished and a new Glover Hall erected in its place, and I hope that this will be completed before the 1st of October, 1960, so that there will be a big 'do' in that Hall on the Independence Day. I do support this Bill.

*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.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 to 8 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

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

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the third reading of this Bill, and I want to remind the Minister that when the Hall has been built he should not allow people to dance *Kusimilaya* there. Such things should not be danced in the Hall.

*Mr Benson rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put; but Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, my Motion is to protest for allowing those who are not octogenarians to speak on this issue and to protest against the demolition of an antiquity.

*Question put and agreed to.*



*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and assed.*

NIGERIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Research and Information** (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Ordinance, 1956, be now read a second time.

Sir, when the then Chief Secretary moved the Second Reading of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Bill in this House in 1956, he said amongst other things "I would draw attention to clause 18 of the Bill which does not rule out the possibility that at some time some sponsored programmes may be promoted with the permission and approval of the Governor-General in Council". In other words, Sir, it was not intended that section 14 of the Ordinance should rule out the possibility that at some time some commercial advertisement or sponsored programme might be allowed with the permission and approval of the Governor-General in Council.

But this section as at present worded does not reflect this intention. The legal interpretation of section 14 as it stands expressly prohibits the Corporation from engaging in any form of commercial advertising and permits the Council of Ministers no discretion in the matter.

The purpose of this Bill, Sir, is to make an amendment to the Ordinance so that the true intention of the Legislature in regard to this section should be clarified without any possible doubt.

This is a very simple amendment, Sir, and I hope the House will have no difficulty in passing it. I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**M. Muhtari, Sarkin Bai** (South West Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Amendment wholeheartedly. (*Hear, hear*). This is a very welcome Bill; it is straightforward and non-contentious and easy.

In all civilised countries such advertisements are not only made through the medium of radio, but also through television. So this is a very very useful forum. But I should like to sound a note of warning that in implementing this Bill, the Minister should see that such advertisements are not restricted to big commercial firms, or what I may describe as quasi-imperial institutions. It should be extended to our local industries. Our people should share this benefit. For instance, if I want to buy the *Buba* that my hon. Friend Chief T. T. Solaru is wearing, I need not go to any market; all I need to do is to tune to my radio and know where I can get one.

With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. I am indeed supporting the Amendment Bill. But in supporting it, Mr Speaker, I wish to make some observations. It seems that the Broadcasting Corporation has so far failed the majority of the people of this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, if this is not so, why is it that the Regional Governments, especially the Western and the Eastern Regions, are running so fast to establish their own in spite of the central Broadcasting Corporation we have? I think really that the Minister has to find out exactly what is wrong with the central Broadcasting Corporation. I have in mind, Mr Speaker—I understand there is what they call the Nigerian Rediffusion Ltd. that is in Lagos here collecting fees from these small boxes, and it appears that this limited company does not render any account to the P. & T. or to the Minister.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am only raising this as a question. I would like the Minister to make an explanation to-day. Particularly, Mr Speaker, I am surprised to note that one important person in this Broadcasting Corporation is still roaming about from one Region to the other. Sometimes he is sent to the Centre, at another time you find him sent to the Region. I mean one fine voice known to everybody in this country, one man called Sam Nwaneri. Is this man having any position at all? Why is he being thrown to the Region to-day and another day you bring him to the Centre? I would like the Minister to explain to this House why that efficient boy has not been given a position.



I think that everybody in this House will agree that that boy is efficient. Why has he not got a standardised position?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to dwell long. I want the Minister to explain to this House why that boy has not been given any position in that Corporation.

**Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo)**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to register my support for this Bill which I think is welcomed by everybody. But I would like to seize this opportunity of asking a question of the Prime Minister—I know that this Bill is not moved by the Prime Minister, but I think it is a matter which concerns him.

Now, we have heard that two Regions at least—the East and the West—are proposing to set up their own broadcasting. They are also proposing to set up their own television, and probably the North might follow suit. Now, what is the policy of the Federal Government on this issue? Are we going to allow these competing forces to confuse the country all the time? I ask the Prime Minister to make a statement as to this, what is going to happen in this country? The Regions appear to be very go-ahead in this country—they may have even more powerful transmitters than the Federal Government, and it may be their own voices may be heard abroad and the Federal voice not heard. What is going to happen? Will they be speaking for Nigeria or is the Federal Government going to speak for Nigeria? That is a question that the Federal Government must face.

The next thing is this. There is the question of staffing. Where are all these Regional set-ups going to get their staff from? Are they going to steal from the Federation? And what is the plan of the Federal Government to combat this sort of thing which is coming up? We have not heard anything said. There is silence everywhere in the Federal front. I would urge upon the Federal Government that we should be made to understand what part the Federal Government is going to play in all these activities. How is Nigeria, as a unit, going to be portrayed to the outside world? I remember when last I was in England, I tried to tune my radio to hear Nigeria. It was impossible. (Interruption).

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba)**: When was it impossible?

**Dr Udoma**: You were not there. I tried to tune to Nigeria, there was no Nigeria. Even here in some villages you cannot hear. If your transmitter is not powerful, how is it going to work? The transmitter here is hopeless and antiquated. I think since we are going to engage ourselves on the commercial line and use broadcasting for that purpose, it is better that the transmitter here should be changed and a more powerful transmitter should be installed which could be heard outside Nigeria.

**An hon. Member**: Even in Russia.

**Dr Udoma**: Yes, we want them to know about Nigeria. We have been hearing about Russia almost every day. Some people are talking about Russia. We want them to hear about us. It is necessary that the Federal Government should have a policy in order to meet this new development.

I know that complaints are rife all over the country that some broadcasting has not been done fairly to all parties. It may be that there is very strong foundation for this (*Some hon. Members: Yes, yes*), and I have no doubt that in the Eastern Region we all complain. (*Several hon. Members: No, no, C.O.R. State!*). I repeat again, in the Eastern Region we all complain. I would like to say that there is general dissatisfaction in the East because the broadcasting in the East is very inadequate. For example, somebody mentioned Nwaneri here. But I am not concerned with it: I am only concerned with matters of policy.

The point is this. Take a place like Calabar. (*Some hon. Members: What about C.O.R. State?*) The C.O.R. State will always be strong. C.O.R. State is stronger than ever. (*Interruptions*). If you take a place like Calabar and the programme there, they do not take enough of local material, and they are being fed with all sorts of programme stuff. So I am saying that in any case, the major point which I make is that the Government should at the present moment say what their programme is and what their plan is to be able to face the new situation that has arisen. With the set-up by the Eastern and the Western Governments of their own broadcasting system and television, the Federal Government has not made any provision for their television. But I hear that one of the Regions will be



[DR UDOMA]

starting from Lagos; so that some of us who come to Lagos will probably start to benefit from Lagos, from that point that is going to be set up by the Region.

The last point I would like to make is, are we satisfied with this name "Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation"? Can we not think of another name instead of copying this thing from England? Can we not think of something like "Radio Nigeria"?

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Gentleman is relating his remarks too little, I think, to the sponsored programme.

**Dr Udoma:** I am so sorry. I bring myself down to the point. What I am saying is that if we are going to do this advertising through the radio, we are not advertising to our people alone. We are advertising to people outside this country, and therefore we would like to keep to one name which would represent the whole of Nigeria and that should be the programme to be heard abroad. That is the point I am making, that we might consider the advisability of changing this N.B.C. to "Radio Nigeria". I am sure that it is for the whole country. I support this Bill.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu):** I rise to support this Bill; it is a welcome Bill, and it is overdue. The idea of commercial advertising or sponsored radio programmes, is accepted in all civilised countries of the world, but I am sure that the Government took precautions not to bring it into our radio programmes. At the outset that should be avoided (and they have carefully avoided that) until we can make the next step. I think we have made the first step towards progress, and we can now come to the second step.

By commercial advertising our broadcasting system could also pay its way, or be made to pay its way, because they will have to charge and people will like to have their wares advertised through the radio. But I warn that this should not be detrimental to the newspapers. People hear so much over the radio that they may forget the power of the Press. And so, Mr Speaker, some say that the Regions are moving very fast and that their scheme is such that they will make us tremble. We are not going to tremble here in the Federal House.

We have got free primary education which has been formed on a steady foundation to give people something to take into their brain, and we have got the health service going; we have got the social services on the upward march; we are constructing roads and bridges. These are necessary things before television, we are not ready for television. There are some people who are going to move at top speed, but they are not ready. (*Hear, hear.*) I like us to be well-founded. If people are running, let them run. We will catch up... (*Inter-ruption*). (In a debate that warrants the dignity of this House no one need call names and so on, the people understand what I am talking about.)

Let me say one thing about the N.B.C.; so far, so good. I am certain that some people may complain—they have had occasion to complain—but complaint here and there should not dismiss work well done. You cannot satisfy all the people all the time.

**An hon. Member:** But you have been discriminated against!

**Dr Mbadiwe:** I have been discriminated against, but that will not make me not to realise that in human life—in human experience of life—things do not work so smoothly. But when you call attention and you receive the attention and go into the subject matter and correct things, that is what is necessary. What I want is that timidity must be avoided in the N.B.C. Once you have the foundation you want you must carry on, do not mind criticism. Some people will tell you, if you do not advertise we will set up our own broadcasting system. Once you are sure you are giving everybody the opportunity, do not mind the Press.

Now, Sir, we want to know the place of the N.B.C. in the whole set-up, the independence set-up, just as we are planning for our bridges, our roads, our luxury hotels, our Legislature, we must plan for a broadcasting system—a voice that will make us to be heard. And with the careful planning and the know-how and experience already accumulated, let us move on so that with all the gigantic effort we have produced, the Regions will take their place in the scheme of things. But we do not want to be swamped by a section of voices here and there. The nation must be the nation,



but because of timidity and may I say, Mr Speaker, the desire to satisfy everybody a timid soul never succeeds. I am supporting every word—no, not every word—some of the words said by Dr Udoma, that except we plan very well to advertise ourselves and to carry out not only advertisement of ourselves, but also the economical aspect, the commercial aspect, of sponsoring programmes, it requires a capital outlay. Have you got the capital? If not, a meeting should be called immediately with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Council of Ministers to provide funds. It is part of the independence.

**An hon. Member :** The Minister of Finance?

**Dr Mbadiwe :** The Minister of Finance is opening his eyes. We will find the money as usual. Take another short trip!

Now, Sir, about the staff in the East. On previous occasions I have paid tribute to those eager young men working out the programme in the East. Under very peculiar circumstances they are doing their best, and I know a young man there who is not sentimental, and does not wear any badge of any party but he goes to do his work, and I think when we find people like that we should not try to frighten them away by making them careless of their job, or thinking that people do not appreciate them, and you get them confused. We must encourage them. When you say Nigerianisation, when we put Nigerians there we must give them every encouragement, and if we see anyone not doing his work, he must be thrown out.

**Mr Speaker :** The point we are debating is about sponsored programmes.

**Dr Mbadiwe :** I am sorry—yes, sponsored programmes. I think that the Amendment is timely and so long as the programme and the advertising are not going to be done haphazardly, but passed through the Council of Ministers, then they will have to determine what is good for young men and women. There may be some sponsored programmes that will be detrimental to the morals of the country, and that is why it must pass through the Council of Ministers for scrutiny, and I think that is welcome.

Mr Speaker, I support the Bill and urge that the N.B.C. again find the money to do a big programme and embark on television, because we are ready for it, while some of the people now wishing to do it are not ready at all.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun East) :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I wish to call attention to two dangers which I foresee. I would like to say that although this amendment looks a bit simple yet the whole matter is not as simple as all that. In fact it may well be said that the N.B.C. is now entering upon a stage which one may call turbulent and severe. I say this because it is all very easy to manage the Broadcasting Corporation as it is now when it is not the length of the purse that matters. It is the question of what is news, that is what really counts. Now the professional people who are there are interested only in what is news and they do their best to put across to the country news items and all that, in as light a manner as possible, making sure that all shades of opinion in the country are given a chance. But, Mr Speaker when it comes to sponsored programmes it is not as simple as all that.

There are two examples which come readily to mind. Members of this House who have been to the United States of America will have an idea of sponsored programmes. Almost every other minute you find chocolate coming to you on the radio, being advertised, tooth paste and all that type of thing and in fact when they are talking about national news you hardly know what is important from what is not important. Now that is one danger. Of course there is another example. Say in a place like Canada where this thing is done in such a way that it is not just mingled up like that without discrimination. I think that the Canada example is a very useful example, but the matter is not as simple as that. When we come to political matters the danger I want to point out is about the people who are going to handle this thing. I would like to point out with the example of Canada that the events in this country are such that people want to hear important news, want to know what is happening in the country and all over the world. We do not want to sacrifice them for mere commercialism. I think it is important to know what is happening in Nigeria, in the Regions



[CHIEF BALOGUN]  
and also in other parts of the world. So I put forward before the Minister and before his Board the example of Canada.

Now, Sir, the other danger which I want to point out is the question of politics and that is where the Minister and the people who are assisting on the Board are concerned, that is where their patience and their capacity is going to be taxed to the utmost. Because just now a person's press release gets into the air not because he goes to pay money to anybody or so or just because he is important and they want to favour him. It gets there if the N.B.C. people feel that it is something that is appropriate. It will get into the air but when you have sponsored programmes you think in terms of elections and you are saying that elections should be free and fair in this country, now that is where you have got to think twice. All I want to say at this stage is that this thing should be introduced gradually and in fact I will go as far as to suggest that if the Minister and his Board have any plans now they might as well take a second look at this plan and do nothing until the Federal elections are over. For all this, I think that the first elections which will bring in the people who are going to run this country when independence comes should be as fair as can be fair. If I may say so, if you allow people's purse to decide what type of news, what type of voice and what type of opinion is coming on the N.B.C. then I am afraid we are not going to have the type of election which everybody is praying for in this country because sponsored programmes mean what they mean, and if a man has got £500,000 to spend I do not see how the Director-General of the N.B.C. can stop him from spending that amount of money.

Just now if people want to put across political party programmes you give them some minutes, you give the Action Group, you give the N.C.-N.C., you give the N.P.C. and other smaller political parties in accordance with the number of candidates they are going to put up. You cannot regulate in that way when it comes to a sponsored programme. I know that the Ministry and the N.B.C. probably have got their machinery to regulate these things and I do hope that it can be regulated. But do not think that these matters can be too much emphasised. There are breakers ahead. Let

it not be that the length of a person's purse is going to dictate how the N.B.C. is going to be used.

**Chief T. T. Solaru** (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, for once I think I will agree with my hon. Friend Kola Balogun in sounding a note of warning. Now from the look of it this Bill looks quite innocent and is simple enough. All it seeks to do is to give permission to the N.B.C. to add commercial broadcasting. There is the monetary side of it and it will help them out commercially and the rest of it.

Sir, we realise the amount of influence and power that are being brought to bear on our people to emerge from a rural economy into the wider world, all of a rush—everything is coming at once, the radio, the television and so on, and you know that for the ordinary people, the printed word is gospel truth. Now we are going to be assailed by the ear-gates, the eye-gates, and every other gate. The thing is we have got to think out this thing and see how it works in other countries. I dare say, Sir, that even in places like Great Britain and in other European countries where commercial broadcasting has taken root, I am sure that they did not pass such a Bill fifteen minutes after twelve midnight. It looks innocent on the face of it, but we must think about the implications of it.

I am not saying that this should not pass, it has come to the House now, and I am just saying that before this law begins to operate the Government ought to have a kind of sessional paper on it, which everybody can read and consult public opinion. In this country we are very susceptible, or at any rate, we are very conscious, very sensitive about our religious susceptibilities. Now I remember, when I was in Great Britain a short while ago, there was a television programme. Now some serious information was coming over the air or some sort of serious play was being put across, and there was an interval. The intervals are very short, they have to work within the programmes. Just as you were thinking about the play something flashed across the screen or a voice was heard saying "Buy some silly sort of article". The thing is so incongruous. And imagine, Sir, whether you are a Christian or a Muslim, and you take your religion seriously. After the morning prayer a voice booms across: "Buy



Beck's beer" ! You know how our people live with their radio boxes on all day and all night. Imagine where for many years you have been known as sober, sensible people who sought to keep out as far as you can the evils of strong drink, and then when you are about to say your prayers, "Buy Beck's Beer" ! I can see you rushing to switch off your boxes. All that has to come into it. These radio boxes are in school halls. You never know what sort of people are going to advertise. They might be all sorts of cosmetics and that kind of thing, and that is no good for children. So that you see all of these things should be considered.

We do not want to give a blank cheque to the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, or to any other Corporation for that matter, and these are things which must be thought about. We might find ourselves rushing in where angels fear to tread. I am not saying that this should be deferred, I am merely saying, Sir, that before it starts to operate the Government should give the leaders of the community, leaders of public opinion the opportunity to state their fears and objections so that you can really put forward a programme which will be acceptable to all. If we do not do that we may find ourselves making people the prey of all kinds of Western materialism. I have not been to the United States yet, but it is the kind of thing that hon. Kola Balogun was talking about. It is about time that we checked this serious thing. I think this Bill should be given the consideration it deserves and that the Government should find out what the country really thinks, what the Regions really think before we implant this necessary evil upon ourselves. And one thing before I forget it ; I wonder whether it is not within the competence of the Government or the Local Council. We want to be delivered from the scourge of radios that blare all night and all day. I think it is the high time we do something about the noises we bring upon ourselves. There is a law of hooting at Tinubu Square but suppose you hoot in Broad Street is there a hitch ? Unless we legislate against this thing we are really importing evils upon ourselves. In Nigeria to-day when a person dies mysteriously people say that his blood has been drained by witches. We happen to know other countries that do not believe in witches and they have their own beliefs. There are things that drain their blood and one of them is noise. Before

we shatter the piece of our countryside let us think seriously about this.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I am a bit worried about this single word "or" a word of two letters. That is so significant. Members of this House have commented on the new competition that has been let loose in the country to-day, only the day before yesterday a Motion was moved in this House recapitulating the work of this House in the past five years. Then as Members spoke we looked back to a stage when we were poles apart until now we have become a House unified in one purpose feeling that we represent this country.

Now, Sir, this Broadcasting Corporation all along has been one and has represented Nigeria as a whole, but now we are confronted with the competition from the West and from the East and certainly to be followed by the competition from the North and soon the three Regions will be vying with the Federal institution for leadership. And the question will arise, how are we going to maintain our position in order that the outside world will know that when the Federal institution speaks it speaks for Nigeria. Somebody has suggested that we should mind our own institution, television and the rest of it. The question will arise, what will be the effect on the Federal Broadcasting Corporation of Federal television ? Is it going to be a purely Lagos affair or is it going to be something for the country ? I am saying this, Sir, because last Tuesday in this House we passed a Motion on the Atom Bomb test ; now with this type of competition we have heard that one of the Regions has sent a delegation to France.

**An hon. Member :** Which Region.

**An hon. Member :** The Western Region of course.

**Mr Wachuku :** Sir, I am trying to relate this question of sponsored programmes. What guarantee have we that when the Federal



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]

Government says "this is the voice of Nigeria" the Regional institution will say a different thing and the outside world will say, "which is the voice of Nigeria"? That is one problem and I am asking the Council of Ministers that when these Regional institutions are set up care should be taken to co-ordinate their activities just as we have the National Council of Establishment and the National Economic Council. Great care must be exercised. The Federal Government and the Regional Governments should consider these sponsored programmes—the type of sponsored programme they will put out. If we give them all the advertisement they want that will not be good enough.

In this particular case sponsored programme should go into extensive commercial advertisement. I do not think it will be too good at this stage of our development and I would like to know the definition of this sponsored programme. Sponsored by whom? If I come with my money and say put it there for me; I feel there must be restriction in things that will be sponsored and I am glad that the Bill says that sponsored programmes will be permitted by the Governor-General in Council.

But, Sir, this thing may be very detrimental to this very country if we are not very careful and therefore our standards must be carefully guided. I am worried not that I do not like seeing sponsored programme, I have seen certain things and I know how amusing they can be, but this is a young country and if we do not know what we sponsor we may wake up one day to find that our young children have no morals and therefore if there is any institution which is going to do this thing it should be the Federal Institution irrespective of what the Regional Broadcasting may sponsor for the sake of money. I am saying that the Federal Institution should not just pursue sponsored programmes because of money and what money can produce. The standards must be high. The institutions of this country must be examined before we begin to accept sponsored programmes.

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

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

**Mr E. C. Akwivu** (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I merely wish to express the view that we hope that the proceeds of the sponsored programmes will be wisely used by the N.B.C. in furtherance of its activities. The N.B.C. has come up for frequent criticisms as regards partially merely because it concentrates on politics.

**Mr Speaker**: This amendment does not set out how the money that may accrue for sponsored programmes may be used.

**Mr Akwivu**: I do hope, Sir, that the proprietors on the passing of this Bill for sponsored programmes will be vindicated by the manner in which the N.B.C. will conduct its affairs in endeavouring both to improve the lot of its staff and encourage their eagerness for getting better news and better coverage on the air to the advantage of the country.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): The only point I want to raise is, let us hope that the sponsored programme will not preclude important news of national interest such as the news of the proceedings of this House and Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope that the N.B.C. news will be curtailed from four times every day to two so that one of it becomes the sponsored programme.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(The Minister of Finance).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at thirty-six minutes past midnight.*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 18th August, 1959

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

NOTICE OF MOTION  
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister** (Mr J. C. Obande). Mr Speaker, Sir, before I move the Motion on the Order Paper I would like to make an amendment that hon. Members should please insert the word "of" in place of "over" immediately after the word "precedence" in line 2. The Motion now reads as follows: "That, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b) of Standing Order 16, Government business shall have precedence of the business of Private Members at this day's sitting, and be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House)." I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose this Motion. I am opposing this Motion on principle. Since this House decided that a Business Committee should be set up, and in order to enable Private Members to be able to introduce their own business and have control of their own business there has been a sound attempt on the part of the Government to make it impossible to have this one day in a week reserved for Private Members to be utilised by Private Members. A typical example is this: it is to be noted that when Government was arranging the summoning of this meeting they knew that if they started at the first Monday which was the 3rd August there would be a first Tuesday which was the 4th. They skipped the Tuesday and started the House on the 5th. Since then we have had only one Tuesday. According to the cyclostyled Notice sent to us, the last day the House should meet was to be the 20th. But what do we notice here? A cluster of Government Bills, about ten Bills, so many Bills to be done in one day—all in an attempt to deprive Members of the Private Members' day.

Now, Sir, the Business Committee had a meeting and some business was fixed for to-day but I learnt that the Government said "no" to the effect that whatever happened on Monday, whether we finished or not, they would adjourn the House. What I say is this: we are quite prepared to co-operate with the Government but all along the Government has made no attempt to co-operate with the Business Committee of the House. They think that because according to Standing Orders they can give twenty-four hours notice of any Motion and it appears on the Order Paper then we have to come here and fight again in this House to reduce the days in Committee from ten to five days. Even then this one single day they do not want us to have it to make the fullest use of it. What are they afraid of?

It is known that a lot of the things which have been done by this House have been done on the initiative of the Private Members in this House and that has gone to the credit of all of us. Private Members have been very helpful to the Government and I would have thought that it should have been the part of the Government to stretch its hand of fellowship and not to deprive us of our rights invested by the Standing Order. Here we are now, Tuesday this Motion is fixed. The Government comes here with the Motion that our business should be set aside and it is all on paper here which is simply asserting a right which belongs to it. Then they are imposing their will on us. I am asking the House not to allow the Government to do this type of thing to them. I do not know what they are afraid of.

This last session one would have thought that Members would have been given sufficient opportunity to air their views. My hon. Friend here has got a Motion, my hon. Friend there has got a Motion on Education. There are several important Motions that would have come before the House. But they were not even put on the Order Paper just because of the Government shadow boxing. I protest vehemently over this thing not so much that I want to keep on debating here but because I feel that Private Members have the right invested in them under Standing Orders here and it is not proper for the Government to keep on wasting time. We have only one day in the week and the Government has five good days! We have only one day and they have five days, and of these five days they are so much afraid



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]  
of our one day that they do not want to see it at all. If this is allowed to continue what is going to happen is that they will bring a Motion here to abrogate the use of Private Members Day.

I sincerely hope that the in-coming Government will not do this type of thing because it is detrimental to the good working of this House and inimical to the interests of Members of this House generally. Mr Speaker, I oppose.

**The Prime Minister :** Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the House will agree that any Member has the opportunity to make his views known in this House, especially my hon. Friend Mr Jaja Wachuku because throughout the days the House has been sitting the hon. Member has been always on his feet. He asked whether the Government is afraid of anything. We are not afraid of anything at all. We are trying as best we can to co-operate with hon. Members on the Floor.

I do not share the views of the hon. Member that Government is trying to assume dictatorial powers. I understand that my hon. Friend, Mr Jaja Wachuku, is Chairman of the Business Committee. He tried to convene a meeting of this Committee but unfortunately I heard he failed to get a quorum and he himself, Sir, went straightaway to select what business would come on Tuesday, the Private Members' Day. Now, what is dictatorship? A man himself trying to do all the business for his Committee!

I am glad that the hon. Member has agreed that we shall go ahead with this and the House I know understands why we had asked that Government Business at to-day's sitting should take precedence over Private Member's Business. We thought we would be able to complete our business on Monday but unfortunately we did not and that is the reason why.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West):** Mr Speaker, I rise to support the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku. The hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku is not anxious to leave Lagos. He said he has installed himself the '*Onikoyi*' of *Ikoyi*. My suggestion is that after the end of Government Business Chief Rev. Solaru who was called the Deputy Speaker yesterday should occupy the Chair and Jaja Wachuku should be the Clerk of the House so that he may continue with the Private Members Business.

**Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande):** Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion. The Government of the day is the Government of the people, by the people and for the people and therefore the question of the Government monopolising the private members' day does not arise.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife):** Mr Speaker, Sir, of all the points that the Prime Minister made the one that will hurt us most is the intention of Government that the House should rise yesterday. Government knew how many Bills they had and yesterday we went through about twelve Bills all rushed through in one day. And I think it was wrong for the Business Committee and the Government to hope that this House would have finished yesterday. But in view of the urgency of the situation I think we have no option but to support Government and have these Bills discussed to-day. I think Mr Wachuku can have a special session all to himself sometime between now and December if he so desires.

**M. Sanni Okin (North Ilorin):** Mr Speaker, Sir, as a member of the Business Committee I have to contribute to the debate. Our Chairman has made use of our name. He had woefully failed to convene a meeting. Of course an attempt was made to convene a meeting but we found out that our Chairman is the main cause of all the troubles in the House. Our time is being wasted. Many Members were anxious to go back as quickly as possible. But when we found that our Chairman was not acting to our convenience, Members were reluctant to attend the meeting.

**Mr Speaker :** It is not regular to disclose proceedings in a committee or the proceedings in a committee when the committee is either trying to find a quorum or to start a meeting. Those proceedings should not be disclosed in the House.

**Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East):** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Mr Jaja Wachuku made two points; one was that out of a session of about three Tuesdays we had only one. I think that point should be recognised by Government. It has happened before and we have complained before. This is not the first time. I think that that point should be noted for the future at any rate. I think the second point was really unfortunate in that if the



Business Committee had not met at the time they did and did not form a quorum, they could have met at other times, but the Government gave the impression that we were rising on Saturday. As a matter of fact everything was to end on Saturday. If everything was going to end on Saturday it would be useless for the Business Committee to meet several times in order to put forward business which they knew would not be coming. That is the whole point.

I do not read any sinister motive into Government wanting to appropriate to-day because after all, there is no private members motion listed, but it was not listed because we did not realise that this House was going to extend as far as this. Even Government itself did not realise that and we should all realise that fact and get on with the business of the day.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Ordered* : That, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b) of Standing Order 16, Government business shall have precedence over the business of Private Members at this day's sitting, and be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House).

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### OBA AND CHIEFS OF LAGOS BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to accord recognition to an approved method for the selection when necessary of the Oba of Lagos, to authorize expenditure upon the Iga Idunganran as the official residence of the Oba, to provide for the appointment and recognition of Chiefs in Lagos, and for purposes incidental and supplementary to the matters aforesaid, be now read a second time.

Sir, although this Bill is a new one, nevertheless the subject matter of it is typical of the history and background of our people. It deals with the Institutions of the Oba and Chiefs. Lagos is a native town and like every

other native town it acknowledges the institutions of the Oba and Chiefs. (*Hear, hear*). These things are part and parcel of our traditions and customs. Long before the advent of the British they had their places in our social and political life and the regard and respect accorded to them have never been in doubt even to this day. When the British came they met these institutions and the mentions of them made in earlier laws were not innovations but mere repetition of what they came to meet and had to work with. Since these old Ordinances referred to the role and status of Obas and Chiefs, it is not, therefore, a new thing to have statutes dealing with these institutions.

With the changes that have taken place in the status of Lagos as a result of Constitutional advances, it has now become necessary to define the position of the Oba and Chiefs of Lagos so as to free them from ambiguity and to accord security to them. (*Hear, hear*). That is the main purpose of this new Bill. It is appropriate here to mention some slight change of emphasis made by the Bill. Previously, no official recognition has been given to the Oba of Lagos by that title : he has been referred to previously as the head of a Lagos ruling family. In this Bill it is proposed to refer directly to the Oba of Lagos. This is in keeping with contemporary tradition as evidenced by the practice everywhere in the world where similar institutions exist. In every place where there is orderly government it is necessary to establish the supremacy of one head and in Lagos it is desirable to accord recognition to an Oba who is not only the head of one family but who, at the same time, has supremacy over the heads of other ruling families as well as being Oba of the entire town of Lagos. (*Hear, hear*.)

Secondly, the Iga is the residence of the Oba of Lagos, but in no Ordinance is there a definition of the standing of the Iga. It is a well-known custom that wherever there are villages, hamlets, towns, Emirates or ethnic groups then there are also palaces or Igas occupied wholly and solely by the person recognised as the head of that community during the period of his reign. Now, what this law seeks to do is to bring the Iga into line with acknowledged tradition so as to confirm the Iga as the official residence of the person recognised as the Oba



[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU RIBADU]  
of Lagos. The necessity for this cannot be over-emphasised. The importance of Lagos grows with the importance of the country. Visitors to Lagos from within or outside Nigeria normally regard it as a courtesy to call on the Oba by paying a visit to the Iga where, invariably, some civic reception takes place. It is only right that the Iga should be made worthy of the dignity of Lagos and a building of which the Federation can be proud. (*Hear, hear*).

Now, Sir, perhaps I should be more specific. I do not want to take up too much time, but if I can clear up a few points and misunderstandings now it should save a considerable amount of time later on.

What, then, does this Bill seek to do? In the first place, it gives legislative sanction to the method of the selection and recognition when necessary of the Oba of Lagos. There is nothing new in this: we have been guided largely by the findings of the Inquiry carried out by a Mr Ward-Price into the manner of selection of the Head of the Royal House and the comments of the then Governor, Sir Donald Cameron, on those findings. It is true that the Inquiry was held in 1933, but such customs and traditions do not materially alter and the findings of that Inquiry are as applicable to-day as they were 26 years ago. No attempt has been made to set out the procedure in every detail: that is unnecessary. The Committee of Chiefs, constituted as in the First Schedule of the Bill, consists of the six most senior chiefs in Lagos. Their proceedings may be governed by the Standing Orders provided for by clause 3 (4) but they know the native law and custom in this matter and it is incumbent upon them to follow those principles.

Secondly, as I have said, Sir, the Bill gives official recognition to the Iga Idunganran as the official residence of the Oba of Lagos. There is nothing new in that either. Everyone knows that the Iga is occupied by the person for the time being accepted as the Oba. The Iga is not the Oba's personal property and he cannot dispose of it: it automatically passes to his successor. This provision has no ulterior motive: it is necessary in order that public money may be spent on rebuilding the Iga and making it a worthy palace in which the Oba of Lagos and his family can live comfortably

and in which he can receive and entertain the many important personalities who visit him. This latter provision is of course new, but I am sure it will commend itself to the House. The present Iga is in a dilapidated state and I am sure the House will agree that in the circumstances, it would be unreasonable to expect any Oba to pay for renovation or rebuilding from his own pocket. Since the Iga will be deemed to be public property while occupied by the Oba as his official residence, provision has also been made for it to be exempted from rates. (*Hear, hear*).

I am told that the Bill has been criticised by some people because of the so-called "powers of life and death" which it is alleged the Oba will have over the Chiefs of Lagos. This fear is quite unfounded. The Lagos Local Government Law, enacted by the Western Region Legislature in 1953, provided for the recognition of Chiefs, but this provision was deleted by the amending Ordinance of 1956 and at present there is no statutory provision for recognition. This is most undesirable both because the four traditional members of the Lagos Town Council are elected by and from among the Chiefs of Lagos and also because it is provided in the Constitution that one Chief, similarly elected, shall sit in the Senate. For the purposes of the election of these chiefs, it is therefore necessary to have what amounts to an electoral college and it is most important that the composition of this electoral college should be well-known and that only those chiefs who are recognised as such by the Federal Government should be entitled to vote and be voted for.

Clause 5 provides for the procedure by which a Chief obtains recognition. There must, of course, be some channel by which a name can be submitted for recognition by the family concerned and it is only logical that, as in the past, that channel should be through the Oba of Lagos. The rights of the chieftaincy families are not being usurped in any way and it is quite wrong for anyone to claim that the rights of the family are being interfered with by this clause. (*Hear, hear*). What it does mean, however, is that a person whose name has been put forward for nomination as a Chief will not unless he is formally recognised as such by the Federal Government and continues to enjoy recognition, be eligible to



House of Representatives Debates

2209 [Oba and Chiefs of Lagos Bill] 18 AUGUST 1959 [Oba and Chiefs of Lagos Bill] 2210

be a member of what I have called the electoral college of Chiefs. It is, of course, provided that the principles of native law and custom shall be followed throughout. Similarly, with regard to the withdrawal of recognition: this may be done by the Governor-General, which means of course the Governor-General in Council, if he is satisfied that such withdrawal is expedient according to native law and custom or if he considers that it is necessary in the interests of peace or order or good government. If such withdrawal should be necessary it will be carried out not only after consultation with the Oba but also after due enquiry has been made. In some quarters, this appears to have been interpreted as "deposition," but it is of course nothing of the sort: the powers of the Governor-General in Council are clearly restricted to the withdrawal of recognition previously given and there is no question of the Governor-General deposing a chief from his position as the Head of a chieftaincy family. That is a matter for the family itself. (*Hear, hear*).

As regards clause 6, I should perhaps make it clear that most of the existing chiefs of Lagos have already been recognised under the Lagos Local Government Law, 1953, and this was done before the provision for recognition was deleted from the Law by the amending Ordinance of 1956. This clause has therefore been inserted for the express purpose of providing for the recognition of those chiefs who have been appointed since 1956: the signification of recognition under this Ordinance of the chiefs recognised prior to 1956 will be no more than a formality.

I understand that clause 7, which provides that chieftaincy disputes shall not be entertained by the courts, has also come in for some criticism in certain quarters. Why, Sir, I cannot understand. This is, with one addition, an exact repetition of the provision already made by an existing Ordinance and I refer hon. Members to section 3 of the Chieftaincy Disputes (Preclusion of Courts) Ordinance, 1948. The only words added are "whether by way of prerogative writ or order or otherwise" in the third and fourth lines of the clause. These words appear to have been omitted from the existing Ordinance in error since their omission goes a long way towards defeating the whole object of the section. I propose to move

an amendment in Committee to correct a drafting error by amending "chief" wherever it occurs in the clause to read "chief of Lagos", thus making the provision applicable only to those chiefs who are recognised under the Ordinance. In this way, the right to determine whether the principles of native law and custom have been followed in the selection of a chief, and to decide who shall or shall not be so recognised, is reserved absolutely to the Governor-General in Council and it is essential in a matter of this kind to provide that the decisions of the Governor-General in Council shall not be open to challenge.

Nor, Sir, is there anything new or mysterious about clause 8 since this is similar to section 4 of the Chieftaincy Disputes (Preclusion of Courts) Ordinance, 1948. It provides that it shall be sufficient to name a chief by whichever title he is known and it is simply intended to provide a safeguard against a criminal case failing in court on the purely technical ground that a chief was not referred to by his proper name or title.

In conclusion, Sir, I should like to emphasise that there is very little in this Bill which is new. It makes statutory provision for what is or has been the existing practice and embodies in one Ordinance the appropriate provisions of existing legislation. The one aspect which is new is the provision for the Iga to be rebuilt from public funds. It was when this point was being considered that the need to provide for the position of the Oba and for what I have called an electoral college of chiefs became apparent. I understand that there are some people who are suspicious of the references made in the Bill to "native law and custom" and who would prefer to see those principles set out and defined. I consider that to be unnecessary: to do so would greatly inflate the Bill and it could in any case only be done after a thorough investigation of the subject had been carried out. I should like to assure the House, however, that I will give further consideration to this matter and that I will examine the possibility of carrying out an investigation with a view to placing on record the native law and custom (*Applause*) in respect of the selection of the Heads of each of the chieftaincy families in Lagos. (*Hear, hear*).



[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU RIBADU]

In our rapid march forward, Sir, we must not forget to carry with us the best of our customs and traditions. We do not want our chiefs to become pawns in the political game. They occupy an exalted position and are much respected: with God's help and our support they will continue to use their influence in the best interests of us all. Sir, this House knows a good Bill when it sees one and I am confident that the Bill now before you will receive wholehearted support.

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

**The Minister of Labour and Welfare** (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill for an Ordinance to accord recognition to an approved method for the selection when necessary of the Oba of Lagos, to authorise expenditure upon the *Iga Idunganran* as the official residence of the Oba, to provide for the appointment and recognition of Chiefs in Lagos, and for purposes incidental and supplementary to the matters aforesaid.

In opening my comments on this Bill and outlining the reasons why I support it, I must say right at the onset that the Bill is as timely as it is necessary. (*Applause*). I say timely because on the eve of the Independence of Nigeria, Lagos without this Bill would have been without an accredited recognised indigenous Ruling Head. It will be recalled by Members of this hon. House, that this ambiguous position of Lagos has been the cause of protracted arguments between succeeding Governors and the leaders of this country since the days of Governor Clifford.

The ambiguous position continued and was strengthened by succeeding Governors refusing to accord recognition to descendants of the Ruling Houses of Lagos, as Obas of Lagos, but only as the Head of the House of Docemo or the particular branch of the Ruling House to which they belong even as late as after the occupation of the *Iga* by the present Oba Adeniji Adele II, the Government still persisted to style him as "Head of the House of Ado" which all the time left Lagos without an accredited Royal Head.

Now in order to substantiate my statement that this Bill is timely and deserves the support of this entire House, I shall, with the permission

of Mr Speaker, narrate the position as I know it, without unduly taxing the patience of hon. Members. In the year 1861, Lagos became a Colony by virtue of the Treaty of Cession 1861. Article 1 of the said treaty reads:—

"In order that the Queen of England may be the better enabled to assist, defend, etc. etc. (*Hear, hear*) and protect the inhabitants of Lagos, and to put an end to the Slave Trade in this and the neighbouring countries, and to prevent the destructive wars so frequently undertaken by Dahomey and others for the capture of slaves, I, Docemo, do with the consent and advice of my Council, give, transfer and by these presents grant and confirm unto the Queen of Great Britain her heirs and successors for ever, the port and Island of Lagos, with all the rights, profits, territories and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging and as well the profits and revenue as the direct, full and absolute dominion and sovereignty of the said port, island and premises with all the royalties thereof, freely, fully, entirely and absolutely, I do also covenant and grant that the quiet and peaceable possession thereof shall, with all possible speed, be freely and effectually delivered to the Queen of Great Britain or such person as Her Majesty shall thereunto appoint for her use in the performance of this grant, the inhabitants of the said island and territories as the Queen's subject, and under her sovereignty, Crown, jurisdiction, and government, being still suffered to live there".

This is paragraph 1 of the Treaty of Cession made by King Docemo in handing over his sovereignty. The natural legal consequences flowing from this is that Lagos being a Ceded Colony the person whom the people of Lagos must owe allegiance to is Her Majesty the Queen of England, Lagos being a part of British territories.

**Mr Speaker**: I do not think many people in the House can understand exactly what the hon. Member is reading. Is it necessary to read this all the way through?

**Mr Benson**: I have made my point, Sir.

Since the Treaty of Cession of 1861, the Government have been paying some money yearly to the House of Docemo that signed the Treaty of Cession with Her Majesty Queen Victoria. In 1949 the House of Ado was for



the first time recognised in Lagos and the person recognised as the Head of this House was gazetted as "Musendiku Adele II, Head of the House of Ado".

**Mr Speaker :** I do not really quite know whether a quotation is being read or a whole speech is being read. It is not really very intelligible to me.

**Mr Benson :** I have to refer to my notes, Sir, because this is very important. The Ministers, Sir, have the privilege of reading their speeches, Sir, and I think those of us who are next to them by virtue of our position in the House, should enjoy the same privilege, Sir.

**Some hon. Members :** That's right. Carry on. Fire ! Fire ! We are behind you.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Order !

**Mr Benson :** The Government of Nigeria have, times without number, said that the Head of the House of Docemo or the Oba of Lagos as he is loosely called, has no political status or ruling functions. So when the Democratic Party requested the Government to make Oba Falolu the Mayor of Lagos, the Government turned down this request in keeping with the stand that the Oba of Lagos was recognised by the reigning King or Queen of England, firstly, Lagos being a Colony and secondly, because of the statement of the Government that the House of Docemo or the House of Ado has no recognised status or ruling functions.

When "Musendiku Adele, Head of the House of Ado" wrote to the Government a letter to recognise him as the Oba of Lagos, the Government refused, Sir. When Prince Adeyinka Oyekan, Head of the House of Docemo wrote to the Government, Sir, asking the question "was Musendiku Adeniji Adele II of Lagos recognised by the Nigerian Government as Oba of Lagos or as Head of the House of Ado with no ruling functions and as a private citizen?", the Government replied that he was recognised as Head of the House of Ado. (*Interruption*).

**Some hon. Members :** Go ahead, we are following.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Order ! It is being so indistinctly read, I think, that really it is not easy to understand him. I do ask the hon. Member to do it a little bit more distinctly ; and that the House does not interrupt him.

**Mr Benson :** Now, with the passing of this Bill, Lagos has gained a new status. (*Hear, hear*).

In order to make the position clearer and to prove to this House that the Minister for Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, the hon. Alhaji Ribadu has only restored to Lagos a right to which they had long been entitled by the enactment of this Bill, let me just say right now, Sir, the position of Lagos is as it was before the conquest. The original King of Lagos was called Olofin and he had his palace at Iddo. (*Hear, hear*). He was later driven away by Asipa who came from Benin through Isheri and waged war against him and conquered. Asipa was then installed as the Oba of Lagos, by the Oba of Benin. Asipa begat Addo and Addo in turn begat three children, two males and one female. The males were Cabaro and Akinshemoyin, and the female Erelu.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) :** Point of order, Sir. My hon. and *Unlearned* Friend, Sir, is getting completely beyond the scope of this Bill.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Point of order, Sir.

**Mr Speaker :** Let me deal with one first. It is impossible for me to know how far the hon. Gentleman is arguing on this Bill or recounting facts of history. That has been deprecated in the House of Commons in London. Going too far back into history in such details that are not really relevant to the present debate has been deprecated in the House of Commons. That is in answer to Mr Fani-Kayode's point of order.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba) :** Point of order, Sir. My hon. Friend there used an offensive language by saying "my *Unlearned* Friend". He is a member of the learned profession.

**Mr Fani-Kayode :** Is he learned ?

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) :** Did he go to a university ?

**Some hon. Members :** He is LL.B.

**Mr Speaker :** Order ! Order ! Why are there two Members on their feet at the same time ? If Dr Udoma is trying to raise a point of order, will he raise it ?



**Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo)**: I am raising a point of order. The order is that my learned Friend, Mr Benson, is learned and is always learned.

**Mr Speaker**: That is not a point of Order.

**Mr Benson**: I am saying, Sir, that the only female child of Addo, begat Ologunkutere who in turn begat Eshinloku, Adele, Olusi, Akelu, Olukotun and Akitoye. (*Interruption.*)

**Mr Jaja Wachuku**: They do not know these things. Teach them.

**Mr Benson**: Akitoye begat Docemo who ceded Lagos to the British crown. In 1950, because of the statements of the Government that the Heads of the Ruling Houses in Lagos could only be styled the Head of their particular House, as they had no political status or ruling functions, a Mayor was appointed in October 1950. In 1953 the Lagos Town Council Ordinance of 1953 made His Highness Oba Adele II, by virtue of his position as Head of the House of Addo, the president of the Lagos Town Council. In 1956, by an amendment to the Lagos Town Council Ordinance of 1953, Chiefs of Lagos, namely:—

1. The Eletu Odibo, representing the Akarigberes,
2. The Olumegbon, representing the Idejos,
3. The Obanikoro, representing the Ogalades,
4. The Ashogbon, representing the War Chiefs,

were recognised as traditional members of the Lagos Town Council.

In 1957, the London Constitutional Conference elevated the status of the Oba of Lagos by stipulating under paragraph 55 (e) that the Oba of Lagos should continue to be the President *ex officio* of the Lagos Town Council, and no other functionary or officer of the Council should take precedence over him in the Council. (*Hear, hear.*) The Conference also went further to strengthen the more his position by providing in paragraph 28 (b) a permanent seat for the Oba of Lagos in the House of Senate. (*Hear, hear.*)

These all go to prove that the Bill is necessary, if the anomalies as far as the nomenclature of the ruling Head of Lagos are to be righted and give prestige to the occupier of Iga Idun-

ganran equal to what his grand ancestors always enjoyed before Docemo invited the British to take over and protect Lagos. Now, having righted the anomaly created in the change of the nomenclature by the British from the Oba of Lagos to the Head of the House of Docemo or the Head of the House of Ado, Lagos has now gone back to the grand old days and now have her Royal Princes and Princesses as other parts of the world, from amongst whom their Oba can be chosen.

Early in 1959, His Highness Oba Adele II realising the significance of his elevated position as provided for by the 1957 London Constitutional Conference and as the father of all inhabitants of Lagos, dissociated himself from alignment with any political party (*Hear, hear*) and by so doing brought on his head the wrath of that horrible cult called the "Action Group Political Party". (*Applause.*)

**Mr Speaker**: That, I think, is really not worthy of the hon. Gentleman if he is making a serious contribution.

**Mr Benson**. The Action Group control the Lagos Town Council . . . . . (*Interruption.*)

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Point of order, Sir. The hon. Member made a very very exceptional statement which the Speaker asked him to withdraw.

**Several hon. Members**: He did not ask him to withdraw.

**Mr Benson**: The Action Group controlled Lagos Town Council, thinking this was Ibadan, Oyo or Ilesha, started a series of persecutions and attempts of victimisation against the person of the Oba, and the Oba as an institution. The Oba was sued for rates and taxes on the Iga which Iga had been declared the official residence of the Head of all Ruling Houses of Lagos by the Privy Council Judgment of 1957. This case of rates and taxes against the Oba is still pending. Attempt to cut down the Oba's remuneration from £1,800 to £1,000. . . . .

**Several hon. Members**: Shame ! Shame ! Shame !

**Mr Benson**: . . . as the President of the Lagos Town Council was made, but thanks to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, the hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, to whom all Lagos owes a big debt of gratitude for



refusing to pass the estimates (*Applause*) unless the Oba's remuneration was left at £1,800 per annum. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Action Group as far as Lagos is concerned, are wiped out.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba)** : Yes, Sir, wiped out.

**Mr Benson** : To-day the "D" Day has come for the Action Group as far as Lagos is concerned when with the passing of this Bill, all the pranks usually played on Obas in the Western Region by the A.G.-controlled Western Regional Government, which they intend to introduce into Lagos through the Action Group-controlled L.T.C. has gone for ever as far as Lagos, the citadel of education, the citadel of democratic ruling, the citadel of perfect administrative machinery for the whole Federation, is concerned. The people of Lagos must be very grateful to the Minister for Lagos Affairs, hon. Alhaji Ribadu, for the outstanding landmark he has created by the introduction of the Bill. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Bill provides for the following purposes :—

1. The recognition of the Oba of Lagos. (*Hear, hear.*)

2. The necessary legislative authority for the rebuilding of the Iga Idunganran as the official residence of the Oba of Lagos. (*Hear, hear.*)

3. Method whereby vacancies occurring amongst the recognised and traditional chiefs of Lagos either by death, deposition or abdication can be filled, and for the recognition of existing Chiefs. (*Hear, hear.*)

4. Exemption of the Iga from rates and taxes.

**Mr Speaker** : Really, how much more reading is there? I have never heard a more flagrant abuse of the Standing Order.

**Some hon. Members** : Fire! T.O.S. We are behind you.

**Mr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha)** : Point of order, Sir. Standing Order 35. The hon. Member is consistently ignoring the Ruling of the Speaker, and I think it is time that it is enforced.

**Mr Benson** : While supporting the Bill I do not think I will be out of order if I point out some omissions which I think should have been

included in the Bill and which warrants the immediate attention of the Minister for Lagos Affairs.

The first omission is that the Bill in assigning duties to four chiefs, with regard to the appointment and recognition of chiefs of Lagos has provided no basis for the principal and procedure to be adopted in the process of Selection but only referred to the procedure consonant with "Native Law and Custom", while in the case of the Oba of Lagos, it is provided that a Declaration of the Committee of Chiefs as stipulated in the First Schedule of the Bill shall be necessary. In order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding in future I think it is necessary that these points should be clearly outlined.

Paragraph 5 of the first Schedule also needs the Minister's attention as it empowers the Governor-General in his absolute right to appoint a substitute to act in the place of any Chief who may be unwilling to take part in the proceedings of the Committee for the purpose for which the Committee is formed. I feel that the appointment of such a substitute should be made in consultation with the Minister for Lagos Affairs. (*Hear, hear.*)

Turning to the succession to the Royal Stool of Lagos, Sir, when an Oba abdicates or dies, or for some reason or other is incapacitated, I feel it will be an arduous task for the Committee of Chiefs responsible for the selection of the successor if there is no codification as to how the Houses comprising the Ruling houses should present candidates for succession to the Throne. I am sure, Sir, that hon. Members will agree with me that in order to prevent polluting the situation with a lot of canvassing amongst the ruling houses and chiefs, a codification for succession to the Stool is a desideratum, otherwise, the situation will deteriorate as it has done in the Regions with some of our King-makers.

Having pointed out these omissions which I am submitting need the further attention of the Minister, I shall now come to a conclusion. . . . (*Interruption.*)

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** : You are not the Member for Lagos. You are from Ikorodu in Ijebu.

**Mr Benson** : The Bill is a democratic Bill as the family from which a chieftaincy is to be drawn would have to elect amongst themselves one of the members of the family in accordance



[MR BENSON]

with native law and custom for presentation to the Committee who after due process will present the chosen one to the Oba who in turn will present him to the Governor-General for recognition.

We want a palace befitting the capital of Nigeria and to have that it should have the following amenities—Council Chamber, the Throne room, decent Reception Hall with African mural paintings on the wall, depicting African ways of life. A Nigerian Artist should co-operate with the Federal Ministry of Works in producing a palace that will interpret the best we have in our culture. (*Hear, hear*). The design should be given sufficient consideration and everything possible should be done to complete the Palace before independence. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, long live the Prime Minister, long live the Minister of Lagos Affairs, long live the Oba of Lagos.

**Mr Speaker :** “Long Live” does not seem really appropriate to the second reading.

**Mr Benson :** When I was speaking Mr Dosunmu said I am an Ikorodu man. I agree, Sir, I am not a true Lagos son, but I would like to make it clear that there are two kinds of Dosunmu's in Lagos. The counterfeit Dosunmu and the proper Dosunmu. (*Laughter*).

**Mr Speaker :** Order, order.

**Mr Benson :** As I was saying, Sir, there are two kinds of Dosunmu's in Lagos. The proper Dosunmu's are from Benin. They are known as *EDOSAMWA*. The counterfeit Dosunmu's are from Brazil. Their original father's name is DOMINIC.

**M. Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki** (South West Central Kano) : Mr Speaker, Sir the early history of Lagos is so familiar to everyone of us, because we dealt with it in passing our examinations in our classrooms, so I won't bother the House with that. Mr Speaker, . . .

**An hon. Member :** It is not accurate.

**M. Bello Dandago :** What is not accurate ? Mr Speaker, I am a traditionalist, and that is why I am standing on my feet to support the second reading of the Bill before the House. Sir, in any community of our people the ruler is the symbol of authority, and more especially, Sir, in such a cosmopolitan city as Lagos.

It is only a Minister who has such a philosophical and far-sighted vision who can give the ruler of a city like Lagos the necessary recognition which this Bill has done.

Sir, Lagos seems to me to justify the old saying that one cannot see the woods but the trees, but every Minister has seen a big tree, among the woods—very big. Mr Speaker, it is only right, I know the Minister can do it and he has done it. Well, whatever can be said to the other Chiefs to confuse them, I know that they are elderly enough, I think that they have the necessary mature experience to know that they, like a body, must have a head. Mr Speaker, the people of Lagos in our Federal territory of Nigeria, must be, and must go, side by side with what is to obtain in the Regions. We have Emirs, we have Chiefs we have Saints, we have Sultans. Why not give the Oba of Lagos the necessary recognition and let us have him recognised as the Oba.

I am saying, Sir, that the Bill is healthy, the Bill is sound, the Bill is beautiful. Even in the early history of human government and administration, three things were said to be necessary in a state: the rulers, the soldiers and the ordinary men. Mr Speaker, even in those days the ruler was first. I very much respect the wisdom of the Minister, that comes to this House with this timely Bill which recognises the importance, the dignity, the personality of our traditions. Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos East) : Mr Speaker, after listening to the introductory speech of the Minister one naturally finds little if anything to quarrel with in the provisions of this Bill. But before I go further I would like to assure my hon. Friend, Mr Benson, that I am in Lagos not only as a man of Lagos, a true man of Lagos, but my grandfather was a White Cap Chief of Lagos. (*Applause*).

Now, Sir, let us get to the business. The hon. Minister has already said that this Law deals with three things: one, the recognition of the Oba of Lagos; two, the recognition also following the judgment of the Privy Council of the *Iga-Idunganran* as the official residence of the Oba of Lagos; and three, the appointment and recognition of the Chiefs of Lagos. In fairness to the Minister, if we look at the objects and reasons he drew a very fine distinct



tion. In respect of the Oba of Lagos, it provides a procedure whereby recognition can be accorded to the Oba of Lagos, and whereby a successor may be elected according to the principles of native law and custom when necessary. He took pains to add the expressions, "according to the principles of native law and custom".

But look at the fourth part, which deals with the method of the recognition of Chiefs. He appreciated that as far as appointment of Chiefs is concerned that is still a fluid matter, it is not settled. "The Bill provides for a method whereby vacancies in the recognised chiefs may be filled upon death or abdication and for recognition of existing chiefs of Lagos". There is nothing so far that it purports to be in accordance with Native Law and Custom which he did not hesitate to say in respect of the Oba of Lagos.

Now, as he said, the question of the Oba of Lagos. By this Bill, he has attempted to find a solution to the perennial question of the dispute over the office of the Oba of Lagos, the succession to that office. I think it was pointed out in the Commission of Enquiry conducted by Ward-Price which Mr Sanni Okin wrongly said was not accepted by the Government. Here is an indication that the findings and the recommendations of that gentleman were accepted. It was he who, after listening to evidence of Native Law and Custom not only from Lagos people, but collected evidence from high potentates like the Oni of Ife and the Alake of Abeokuta, and other important Chiefs from the Yoruba parts of Nigeria, and Oyo, and after collating the evidence he came to the conclusion that the approved method of selecting the Oba of Lagos is through the Chiefs. By the Minister endeavouring now to put in the Statute Book this approved method with which I agree, speaking for the indigenous people of Lagos, that this is the approved recognised method of appointing the Oba of Lagos. (*Hear, hear*). In respect of the *Iga Idunganran*, we Lagos people in particular are obliged to the Minister for his magnanimity. The *Iga Idunganran*, as the Privy Council rightly pointed out, is almost a public property, and is the recognised official residence of the Oba of Lagos, and it is only right that that dignity should be reflected in the abode of the Oba of Lagos. I think the Minister could not

have done anything better than by asking the Federal Government to finance the rebuilding and the renovation of that *Iga Idunganran*.

As the Minister said at the beginning, there are certain fears. Yes, there are certain fears. As I said the speech he made in introducing this Bill has gone a long way to allay those fears. (*Applause*). I myself was a victim of that fear. Why? Because I thought that my future was affected or is affected by that Bill. I said it at the public meeting that we had. Those of us who are children or Chiefs of Lagos had a meeting and I said that with a law like this and without the explanation of the Minister, I would not like to become a White Cap Chief of Lagos because it does not ensure that the selection of a Chief is entirely a matter for the family. A Chief is a Chief because he is so recognised by the family and as long as he enjoys the confidence of his family he will remain a Chief. I am indeed happy that the Minister has rightly pointed out that the recognition of Government is only for the expressed purpose of enabling him to join in the Electoral College for the purpose of either going to Senate or the Lagos Town Council (*Hear, hear*).

My first quarrel with this Bill is that it did not lay proper emphasis where it should lie as far as the elections of Chiefs are concerned because as far as we are concerned in Lagos the Oba of Lagos, as I think the word has been rightly chosen, is a channel by which you will only know who the family has rightly appointed as the Chief. To put it in other words he is a sort of conduit pipe by which a person selected by the members of his family will reach the Government. It is the members of the family who have to agree among themselves on who will be the succeeding Chief, formally present him to the Oba of Lagos who sends his name to the Government for recognition and that is all.

**Several hon. Members :** That is correct.

**Mr Dosunmu :** As the Minister has rightly said it may look unwieldy to put the details of the Native Law and Custom in the law, but without the explanation which the Minister has made I think you will agree with me that the people's fears, that is those of us who are affected by reason of the fact that we are Members of chieftaincy families in Lagos, our fears are not unreasonable.



[M. MAITAMA SULE]  
 respected by outsiders in the world. We must not make the mistake that some countries in the world have made by disregarding their good traditions and customs and throwing them overboard. Such countries have had their reputation suffering a great deal and I do not hope that we too will have the same experience. Mr Speaker, Sir, such countries that at one time try to throw overboard their traditions and customs have had their political stability not settled and I believe that even though we may think that these traditions may not be so great yet we may find that if we disregard them our political stability in this country may not be settled. Sir, I would like to say that our natural rulers must be made to work under an atmosphere in which they will work with all satisfaction. They must be made to be fathers, above all impartial fathers too. It will not be to our advantage to force these rulers to enter into any party politics, thereby creating an opportunity for some politicians to assassinate their characters or make them objects of ridicule. It will not be to our advantage to give them poor salaries with which they may not be satisfied, thereby creating a desire for them to want more, creating a desire to be corrupt. It will not be to our advantage to keep our leaders in ramshackles not befitting their dignity, that will only make the people outside who come to visit us feel that we have no respect or regard for our temporal supremes.

This Bill therefore that goes to place the Oba and Chiefs above party politics and seeks to give the Oba of Lagos a salary commensurate with the dignity of his office and that seeks to house His Royal Highness in a palace that is worthy of the dignity and honour of the Ruler of the Federal Capital of this Federation is most welcome. Let me say this, Sir, that in this House we are not doing an unusual thing for Chiefs all over Nigeria have always been made to work under similar conditions and in an atmosphere which will make them rule independently and be impartial leaders of their own people.

In the end, Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Government in general and the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power in particular. It means a lot of courage to be the Minister of Lagos Affairs, and I am glad that the Minister has that courage. It needs foresight

to be responsible for Lagos Affairs, and I am pleased that the Minister has it. It needs a lot of determination, determination to go ahead with excellent, progressive plans regardless of criticisms that may come from a disgruntled few, and I am glad to say that the Minister has got that determination. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am indeed relieved that the Minister has got these qualities and other qualities without which this particular Bill might not have seen the light of day. Sir, I congratulate the Minister and the Government for the very good intentions they have for the people of Lagos and Lagos itself and this is an indication of the good will that the Federal Government of Nigeria has and I congratulate the Minister in particular.

Sir, I beg to support.

*Sitting suspended: 11.35 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed: 12 noon.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is gratifying to know that those who held nocturnal meetings with some of our chiefs and who read sinister motives in the tenets of this good Bill, have now come to this House to acclaim the Bill in its entirety as a very good Bill. This should be an eye-opener to some of our misguided chiefs and it is time they knew their saviours have only feet of clay. I think the only objectionable portion of the Bill that one prominent Member of this House mentioned is the one in connection with the possibility or otherwise of chieftaincy cases going before the law Courts. I think those of you who are congratulating the Government have done the right thing in this instance. One or two people will be disappointed because we know it is their stock-in-trade to make money out of litigation, especially when it concerns chiefs in Isale Eko. I hope that this avenue is now closed for good.

**Dr E. U. Udoma** (Opobo): Point of Order, Mr Speaker, Order 26. The speech is irrelevant.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs**: I will only make these few observations and I hope that Members will from now onwards read their Bills very intelligently and help the Government by giving correct interpretation to the people outside as they are asked to do when they come into this hon. House.



**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance** (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to contribute to the Second Reading of this Bill by starting to congratulate the Prime Minister and his Government. I have to pay very high tribute to the Prime Minister, the Government, and the Minister of Lagos Affairs, because I feel that the tradition that was being misused has now been revived and put in its proper place (*Hear, hear*). Well, those of us who have started to learn how to read and write and studied a little bit of history of Nigeria will know exactly the position of Lagos. Lagos, in about the 17th century was a camp for Benin. It is very glorious that a Benin town has grown into such importance that it becomes the Capital territory of the Federation of Nigeria (*Hear, hear*) . . .

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : And Benin has now become a small boy.

**Chief Omo-Osagie** : Well, it is not uncommon in this world that sometimes the son is greater than his father. Benin cannot be compared with the position of Lagos to-day but Benin made Lagos. We created Lagos and there is one thing, Mr Speaker, the Obaship of Lagos is a direct descendant of the King of Benin. The judgment of the Privy Council has clearly acknowledged the fact. It is a fact of history.

Now the first king of Lagos was a direct son of the first daughter of the Oba of Benin whom the Oba sent after establishing this place and made him a King there, and ever since then, until 1861 when Lagos island was ceded to the British Crown, any King in Lagos that was to be created had to go to Benin to have confirmation. Now Mr Speaker, Sir, the tradition is being revived and I will ask that the tradition which is being revived should be revived throughout so that before an Oba in Lagos is elected a sort of confirmation must be received from the Oba of Benin before confirmation is made to the Government, because that is the only way that a tradition is preserved. If we feel we should preserve tradition we must preserve it in all its entirety.

Sir, I congratulate the Oba of Lagos and I congratulate the Chiefs of Lagos and more particularly I pay high tribute to the very good sense of the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife)** : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to join every Member of this House who has spoken so far in congratulating the Minister. Before he came to the House to make his memorable speech on this Bill many people were really frightened of the Bill. Many persons thought that he was bringing a reactionary Bill into this House to give Obas or chiefs powers that they had in about 1700, but we have now seen that all he has done so far is to retain the *status quo*, to make things remain as they are, and not only that, to make them certain by putting the facts in an Ordinance of this country. It is not true, now we know, that the Oba can depose any chief. He cannot. It is not true that the Chiefs can depose the Oba. It is not true that the right of families in appointing the Head has been removed. For that we are thankful. I see, Sir, that the Minister has done his best not only to preserve the existing traditions but also to make them easily ascertainable in the pages of our legislation.

Sir, that is the point of progress that we must be thankful to God for, because I believe that tradition should be preserved in its proper place. I believe that Obas should be given a place of grandeur, they should have their *Igas*; but I also believe, Sir, that they should be ceremonial persons and symbols of the community in which they live. They should be above party politics, and I believe, Sir, that ultimately we shall reach that state in our development where an Oba will be something akin to the Queen of England, a person who is only a symbol of any community he is in.

Secondly, Sir, we discussed the issue of the *Iga*. Again the Government has come forward with a very laudable scheme for beautifying the *Iga* and not only that to make it quite clear that the *Iga* is the House and residence of the Oba of Lagos to which every member of the ruling House might appoint a head. That was the contention, Sir, in the *Iga Idunganran* case where some people thought that the *Iga* belongs to only one section of the family. Now they can come here and clap and talk but that point was clarified in the case, Sir, and the hon. Minister has made it quite clear that the Royal Houses of Lagos are the persons entitled to the *Iga* and the head of the whole family appointed as the Oba is the person entitled to reside in it. What more can we want, Sir, from this side of the House? History and the Minister have justified our stand.



[MR JAJA WACHUKU]

When my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode spoke, he struck this accent into it. We were thinking that this debate would live above politics. But then my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode drew politics into it. It is right, Sir,.....

**Mr Speaker :** The hon. Gentleman should keep to the debate strictly.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** I am going to obey very straight-forwardly the orders of the Speaker to prove it above party line now.

Sir, I want to congratulate the Minister for doing this work for the nation, and the Council of Ministers for thinking it proper now.

There is this one thing I would like to ask the Minister to do for us. Anybody who follows the legal and judicial battle that went on over the Obaship of Lagos and the official residence will recognise that very great bitterness has been engendered. I think now that we have started to turn a new page into a good thing, the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power will use his good offices to bring about a reconciliation between the parties who were subject to this dispute. (*Applause*). We are passing through a new age. The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power will make every possible effort to bring about the reconciliation between the parties subjected to this legal dispute.

The Oba himself, when he assumes his new status I am sure, Sir, will be consistent with the submission of our African people, for the Oba is the Chief, is the King and father of his people. Those who have read the work written by Basuta (?) will read what he saw when he travelled in the Western Sudan. Read the works of Basuta (?) about Western Sudan and you will find what he said about our rulers and Obas. I say, Sir, the Council of Ministers should continue their good work. I will not be satisfied if I find that after this good Bill has been passed we do not see the Oba's recognition which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has decided as the final court of arbitration in this Commonwealth. We cannot do anything more than that. There is no question of humiliation. The court has decided. The court is final. We accept that decision.

The State has taken steps to better the condition of the Oba, to give him the appropriate recognition. But it is right that all

concerned must be pacified, and when that is done, this Government shall have done a great job for the nation and shall have brought consolidation in Lagos so that when we march forward to independence we will be marching as a team.

With this remark, Sir, I support this Bill. (*Applause*).

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Members from all sections of this House who have spoken on this Bill for giving this Bill the support it deserves. (*Hear, hear.*) Sir, one thing very significant is the quality which the Nigerian people inherited, and that is when there is any question in respect of tradition or custom or when it becomes a matter of national pride, whatever may be the differences among the Nigerian people, politically or otherwise, they become one and an indivisible entity. (*Applause*). Sir, that will give us more and more confidence in ourselves and in the people who look upon us to build the nation. The unity of Nigeria will be stronger and stronger and stronger for ever.

Referring to the Bill, Sir, I have already given assurance in my speech to some of the points raised by some hon. Members, and I would like to reassure the House that I will see that what I have told the House is implemented as soon as practicable. (*Applause*).

On the question of the definition of the Governor-General raised by some Members, my hon. Friend, Mr Fani-Kayode, has already explained that Governor-General whenever it occurs in the Bill means "Governor-General in Council".

Sir, I think now that Members have spoken enough on this Bill and since it is non-controversial and time is against us I will, with due respect to the Members who have not spoken move that the question be now put.

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*



**M. Sanni Okin** (North Ilorin): Mr Chairman, I do not understand the word "recognised chief". As far as my administrative experience is concerned, all recognised chiefs in the Northern Region of Nigeria are the chiefs that are receiving emoluments. I do feel that in future the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power will be able to introduce a Bill to provide for the salaries of all the chiefs in Lagos.

**The Chairman**: Surely, there is a definition for it. I do not think the hon. Member has referred to that.

**Dr E. U. Udoma** (Opobo): Mr Chairman, I am very happy to note that the Minister has also shown his appreciation for the meaning of the expression "Governor-General" as meaning "Governor-General in Council", and all I want to emphasise on this point is that I hope that the Minister's interpretation of "Obas" will mean "the Oba and the Committee of Chiefs". It is in that way that we make it possible for the chiefs and the Oba to be able to work together.

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*Clause 3.*

**Oba Adetunji Aiyoola, Afolu II** (Ijebu Remo): Mr Chairman, I do not know whether I can speak on the First Schedule to the Bill at this stage, that is in accordance with the composition of the Committee of Chiefs. It appears to me, Sir, that the Committee of Chiefs as set down in the First Schedule, is an *ad hoc* body. I think, Sir, that tradition is tradition. Tradition never changes and Members of the Committee of Chiefs should not vary at all. We have five Members here and it is said that two other Chiefs who shall be the most senior in point of time, having regard to the respective dates of their appointment as Chiefs, amongst the classes of Chiefs specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), such senior Chiefs not themselves being the Eletu Odibo, the Olumegbon or the Obanikoro.

Mr Chairman, I think that when the Minister comes to ask for enquiries to be made, a body or Committee of Chiefs should be created and the body should be permanent and not an *ad hoc* body.

**The Chairman**: The argument, of course, if it is preceded with now, cannot come again on the First Schedule.

*Clause 3 agreed to.*

*Clause 4.*

**Mr J. G. Adeniran** (Ibadan West): Mr Chairman, Sir, only one point I want to raise here. I would humbly beg the Minister to please make a point clear to me. I quite agree, Sir, that the Federal Government may provide money to rebuild or renovate the *Iga* or the palace of the Oba of Lagos. But after the completion of building, what of the maintenance? Will the Federal Government continue to maintain the *Iga*? The *Iga* after all is the palace of the Oba of Lagos, and the Lagos Town Council is having its own funds and it is the funds of the Lagos Town Council I think that should be used for maintenance of the *Iga*. It will not be fair, Sir, to continue using the money of the Federation to maintain the palace.

*Clause 4 agreed to.*

*Clause 5.*

**Mr D. N. Abii** (Owerri): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to raise a point on clause 5 regarding the appointment and recognition of Chiefs. I am taking into consideration what hon. Dosunmu said regarding whether the Oba should have a direct say in the appointment of somebody to take the position of the Chief if that Chief happens to die. I feel that subsection 4 takes into consideration that the Oba and his Committee of Chiefs form something like the Council of Ministers. I feel that when any family of Chiefs is selecting somebody into the Committee of Chiefs, it must be taken for granted that the man so selected is not somebody who will not be to the interest of the Oba.

What I mean by that, Mr Chairman, is that sometimes a family may select somebody who is not acceptable to the Oba. I feel that in selecting a Chief, the suitability of the person must be taken into consideration so that the Oba can have him as a suitable member of his Committee.

**Mr C. O. Komolafe** (Ilesha): I do not intend to make an amendment. But this clause, "the Oba of Lagos may recommend a successor for recognition by the Governor-General", as it stands I feel the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power should consider very well whether it should not be more appropriate to include the Oba and all his Chiefs. I feel that



[MR KOMOLAFE]

the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power should reconsider very well whether it would not be more appropriate to include the Oba inclusive of his Chiefs, because we have seen it elsewhere that when this thing begins to work in practice it is going to bring a lot of difficulty as it has done in some parts of the country particularly in the Western Region.

When an Oba is made the main channel by which a special chief, after the death of one chief in the town, has to be created and the Oba alone has the main say without consulting other chiefs in town, it does not generally work well. It works at cross purposes to our Native tradition. Mr Chairman, if you will allow me I would give an instance. It happened in my own Division.

**The Chairman :** It is not necessary to this Clause.

**Mr Komolafe :** What I am saying is that in order to save unnecessary wrangle and arguments and confusion later on that would ensue, I think it is necessary to put on paper that the Oba and Council should recommend upon the death of any Chief a successor to the Governor-General.

*Clause 5 agreed to.*

*Clause 6 agreed to.*

*Clause 7.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** I beg to move the following Amendment :

Clause 7, page C117, line 14, after "chief" insert "of Lagos".

As I said in the Second Reading of the Bill, the purpose of this Amendment is to make it absolutely clear that only the people who are recognised are affected by this law.

*Amendment proposed.*

**Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba) :** What I wish to add here is that it is not always good to shut people completely out of the courts. There are many times when man's inhumanity to man is such that one cannot bear but go to the court. After all, going to the courts is a favourable feature which makes many people not to resort to bloodshed so that if we suggest that before the declaration of the chieftaincy is made it will be necessary in future, if not now, for the Minister to bring an Amendment so

that it might be possible for certain disputes before the declaration be argued in court and the court make some direction, it might be possible for one to abide by the ruling of the court.

It is not always good for anyone to be shut out of court because there is something that one has in mind ; sometimes he thinks that he is right and the other person thinks that he is wrong. The best thing is to go to the Court of Justice, the foundation of Justice of Her Majesty the Queen. It is always good for them to resort to court so that the court might be able to give them a decision. I am suggesting that the point made by my learned Friend Mr Dosunmu, should be taken into consideration for an amendment to be brought into this House in time to come.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** Mr Chairman, Sir, I think in my Second Reading of the Bill I explained this point very clearly. It is quite undesirable after the Governor-General in Council has conferred recognition on a chief for the decision of the Governor-General in Council to be challenged, because before the Governor-General in Council can confer their recognition on any particular chief it is a long process. First of all, the family concerned would select its own chief, according to Native Law and Custom and from there it goes to the Oba who is the channel for bringing the recommendation to the notice of the Governor-General in Council. I am sure the Oba too will follow the principle laid down by Native Law and Custom. So it is only as a final stage that it comes to the Governor-General in Council, and by then every avenue for dispute would have been settled. I think the House will agree with me that after recognition has been conferred by the Governor-General in Council not by the Governor-General at his discretion, nor by any one particular Minister, but by the Governor-General in Council, which is, the highest policy making body in the land, then I think their decision should be precluded from court proceedings.

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu) :** Mr Chairman, I think that the Minister of Lagos Affairs has thrown more light on this question of Courts and the explanation just made is very timely. It will save unnecessary litigation, but the Bill has come a bit too late. After we have spent so much money and to-day people fear



House of Representatives Debates

2241 [Oba and Chiefs of Lagos Bill] 18 AUGUST 1959 [Oba and Chiefs of Lagos Bill] 2242

to mention names and when we were spending money to send certain things to the Privy Council—I believe that we are all silent about it—what the Minister should know is that so much money has been lost previously. On the question of Prince Oyekan, we went to the Privy Council. I put my money there.

I wish that this matter of settling disputes will take into consideration that in order that peace and concord may reign—Jaja started mentioning it and I want to support him in this respect—that if we are going to make this law, it should be all round; but let the Minister, since he is a harmoniser harmonise everything harmonisable.

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

Another amendment made in page C117, line 17 by inserting after the word “chief” the words “of Lagos.” (*The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power.*)

*Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clauses 8 and 9 agreed to.*

*First Schedule.*

**Mr L. L. Lakunle** (Oyo North): The point I want to raise on this First Schedule is about the man to be Chairman of the Committee of Chiefs. In the Regions, particularly in Yoruba towns, if there are ten Chiefs in a town there is a way of determining the senior. . .

**The Chairman:** This Clause is limited to Chiefs in Lagos.

**Mr Lakunle:** The point I want to raise is that it is said here that if the members of the Committee of Chiefs want to appoint a Chairman and the members are equally divided then seniority will be determined on their respective dates of appointment. What I want to point out is that if a Chief according to Native Law and Customs is senior, if he is appointed to-day he will take his senior position leaving the others behind. That is the point I want to raise.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): I do not see, Sir, why there should be discrimination in this Clause because it is said that “such senior Chiefs not themselves being the Eletu Odibo, the Olumegbon or the Obanikoro”. I think Ashogbon should be given the same status as the other chiefs because he is one of the four Chiefs recognised by the Lagos Town Council (Amendment) Ordinance of 1956.

*First Schedule agreed to.*

*Second Schedule.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power:** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move in Second Schedule: Page C118, line 24, after “(3)” insert “of Part I”.

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Second Schedule as amended agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported with amendments.*

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

**Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju** (South Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Third Reading of this Bill I would like to remind the Minister to effect immediate implementation of the law after the Bill is passed. I also want the Minister to consider among other things the increase of the Oba's dominions by extending Lagos to Agege, Ikorodu and so on.

**Oba Adetunji Aiyeola** (Ijebu Remo): Mr Speaker, Sir, by the passage of this important Bill into Law, I, heart and soul, and as a traditional ruler of my people (*Hear, hear*) wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Lagos and the present holder of the Office. Mr Speaker, thanks to God Almighty once and for all Lagos has come to stay. Was it not about a few years ago, Mr Speaker, that Lagos was known as no man's land? (*Interruption.*)

**Mr Speaker:** Has Oba Aiyeola any relevant point to make on the Third Reading?

**Oba Aiyeola:** Having had the assurance of the Minister in respect of inquiries for declaration of titles in Lagos I think that he will do all he can to make the declaration in the fullness of time.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): When this House meets again in 1960, Sir, there will be a Motion for the extension of Lagos which will be passed.

**Mr Speaker:** That is not relevant to the Bill.

**M. Sanni Okin** (North Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power and have to say that this particular Bill is quite timely. I hope that he will remember that in 1937 the same proposal was made but for the then political situation in Lagos the proposal was not acceptable to the people and



[MR SANNIOKIN]  
was therefore withdrawn indefinitely. Now, that the Federal Government has thought it fit to introduce this Bill now, I suggest that the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power should see that the contents of this important Bill are implemented as soon as possible (*Hear, hear*).

In conclusion, I have to congratulate the Oba of Lagos, Adeniji Adele II on regaining the dignity and power he lost in 1937.

*Question, That the Bill be now read the Third Time, put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.*

LAGOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT)  
BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Lagos Government Law, 1953 (Western Region Law No. 4 of 1953), to provide for its redesignation and for matters incidental and supplementary to the purposes aforesaid, be now read a Second Time.

As hon. Members of this House are aware, Sir, it has for some time been the intention of Government to introduce this Bill. The principal Law was enacted by the Legislature of the Western Region six years ago and many of its provisions are now out-of-date. The Law has been amended by this hon. House from time to time, but comprehensive amending legislation has had to await decisions on the further functions to be transferred to the Lagos Town Council and on the question of the financial relationship which should exist between Government and the Town Council. There were also a number of matters of an administrative nature which required examination and improvement.

I am very happy to say, Sir, that the time has now come when, having reached satisfactory conclusions on these various questions, the Government is in a position to introduce this amending Bill. It was at the 1957 Constitutional Conference that the Governor-General in Council was invited to consider what functions might be transferred from the Federal

Government to the Town Council. It was subsequently decided that the functions to be transferred should include responsibility for the Lagos Fire Brigade, for Primary Education in Lagos, for certain of the welfare services and for a redivision of responsibility for health services. You will recall, Sir, that these decisions were ratified by the Resumed Constitutional Conference in October last year. The important question of the financial relationship between the Federal Government and the Town Council had then to be resolved and Government decided to seek the assistance of an expert from outside Nigeria. We were most fortunate in obtaining the services of Sir John Imrie, an eminent authority on local government practice in the United Kingdom, and he was accordingly appointed to conduct an inquiry into this and other related matters.

Sir John Imrie's Report was laid on the Table of the House on the 23rd of February this year : I consider it to be a most valuable and well-balanced Report and I hope that hon. Members will have studied it closely. That part of the Report which deals with the financial relationship has been accepted in full by the Lagos Town Council and the House will wish to know that the Federal Government has also accepted the financial recommendations in full, subject to a few minor modifications and provisos. It is proposed to introduce the new system of grants on the 1st of April, 1960; and one of the principal objects of this Bill is to make provision for the introduction of the new system and to provide adequate safeguards for ensuring the effective use of these grants. In this respect, I invite the attention of hon. Members to clauses 8 and 35 of the Bill.

Sir John Imrie's terms of reference also included a review of the administrative organisation of the Lagos Town Council and of its budgetary organisation, including the accounting controls and the form of its estimates. Consequently, there are a number of most useful recommendations in the Report as to the way in which the existing Law might be improved and most of these recommendations have been embodied in the Bill which is now before you.

There are a number of other important provisions in the Bill and one of its principal objects is to assimilate the procedure for Town Council elections to that for Federal elections. Clause 13 provides for the same



franchise to be used for local government elections as for Federal elections, and clauses 4 and 52 will make it possible to utilise the Federal Register as the official list of voters for an election of councillors. This would greatly simplify the procedure—to the benefit of all concerned—and considerably reduced the cost of running an election.

You will see, Sir, that clause 5 makes an amendment to section 7 of the Law which provides for the action which may be taken in the event of the failure of the Town Council to carry out work or to make or enforce bye-laws. At present, the Federal Government may step in if such failure constitutes "a grave danger and menace to the health, safety or welfare of the public within or without the town". Clause 5 amends the words "a grave danger and menace" to, quite simply, "a danger". The amendment clarifies this section and, to a certain extent, strengthens the hand of the Federal Government. This is as it should be for the Federal Government's stake in Lagos is extremely high and it must be in a position to act in such a situation if the Town Council is unable or unwilling to do so.

Of the other amendments effected by this Bill, Sir, I should like to draw particular attention to clauses 10 and 11. The first of these provides that the President of the Town Council—who is also the Oba of Lagos—shall be paid remuneration at the rate of eighteen hundred pounds a year from the funds of the Council. I regret the necessity for writing this provision into the Law but, in view of the way in which he has been treated by the Council during the past few months, I am sure that the House will agree that the sooner the determination of the President's remuneration is removed from the realms of local politics the better. (*Hear, hear*). He has for some years received a remuneration of £1,800 a year, but in its Estimates for this year the council decided to make an arbitrary reduction of £800. (*Shame*). The Governor-General in Council saw no justification for this reduction and therefore disapproved the Item in the Estimates and directed that the Town Council should reconsider the matter. The Town Council was given ample opportunity to meet the wishes of the Federal Government, but it has not seen fit to do so and has now proposed instead that the President's remuneration should be fixed at £1,080 a year. In order that the President should not suffer

a reduction in his remuneration for the period from the 1st of April, I propose to move an amendment to this clause during the Committee stage which will provide for payment at the rate of £1,800 a year to be effective from that date. (*Applause*).

Clause 11 inserts a new provision which enables the elected chairman of the Council to receive remuneration. The office of Chairman is an important one and carries with it many onerous responsibilities and duties. Thus the Chairman, if he is conscientious, has more or less a full-time job on his hands and he has, or should have, little time to engage in any other business or activities. It is therefore only reasonable that he should be permitted to receive some compensation for his loss of income or earning capacity during the time that he holds office.

Now, Sir, what of the rest of the Bill? Important provisions regarding the estimates and the accounts of the Council are inserted by clauses 36, 37 and 38 while clauses 42 and 43 add to its duties and powers.

Nor have the officers and servants of the Council been forgotten; Sir John Imrie recommended the establishment of a Municipal Service Commission and clause 8 includes provision for this. Clause 30 reinstates the provision in the 1950 Lagos Local Government Ordinance that a local government officer, dismissed on the grounds of inefficiency has a right of appeal. At present only medical officers of health and, except with permission, the Town Clerk are specifically precluded from engaging in private practice. This is an undesirable distinction and clause 26 therefore extends this prohibition, except in exceptional circumstances, to all officers of the Council. The status, powers and duties of the principal officers have been redefined and these are set out in the Second Schedule to the Bill.

The opportunity has of course been taken to do a bit of tidying up and I am afraid some of the amendments are a little difficult to follow without a close examination of the principal Law. Nevertheless, you will note, Sir, that the last of the 55 clauses provides for the reprinting of the Law with all amendments inserted and for its redesignation as "The Lagos Local Government Ordinance, 1959". That will, I know, be a blessing to all those of us who have to make frequent references to this Law.



[ALHAJI MUHAMMADU RIBADU]

Finally, Sir, in commending this Bill to the House, I should like to say this: it is no good misinformed critics demanding that the Federal Government should leave the Town Council alone—give it almost autonomous powers and a large block grant and allow it to work out its own salvation. I should be happy indeed if the Town Council and I were always to agree and if I never felt bound to disapprove or discourage any course of action or proposal submitted to me. Even if that were so, however—and I am sorry to say that we do not always see eye to eye—the fact remains that the interests of Nigeria as a whole must be paramount and those interests must not be placed in jeopardy by the sectional interests inherent in local politics. We who sit in this honourable House, Sir, come from all parts of the Federation but we must all agree that Lagos is the main nerve centre of the country. As the Federal capital, it symbolises the unity of the Federation. A breakdown of one or more of the essential services in Lagos would almost inevitably have repercussions throughout the country. It is therefore the duty of the Federal Government to do everything humanly possible to provide for the efficient local government of Lagos and we shall not shirk from that duty.

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

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr L. J. Dosunmu** (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, since 1945 to date there have been a series of amendments to the original law to the extent that the old law is completely out of shape, and it is a good thing that the Minister himself agreed in the last paragraph that after putting all these various amendments the new law should be re-christened. Having done that, Sir, I think he still has to keep in mind, and that in the forefront of his mind, the principle of Local Government.

Local Government is Local Government. It is not and can never be a department of your Ministry. It is a creation of the statute and within that extent it has to work unmolested, unfettered. Now after this law has passed through, this law will continue to create what is the Lagos Town Council. You have con-

ceded certain powers to the Lagos Town Council and certain duties to the Lagos Town Council. There are certain sections where you left the ultimate discretion to yourself as the Minister responsible for Lagos, but there are other cases where in accordance with well known principles of Local Government, you have given the duty to the Lagos Town Council and I submit, Sir, that as long as the Lagos Town Council continues to exercise its functions within the law, it will not be correct for any Minister to interfere with it.

Now, Sir, I take this opportunity also to congratulate the Minister for having the courage to own its mistake. I notice that the Minister glossed over what appears to be an important change of heart. Three or four years ago in this House it took me almost thirty minutes to tell the then Chief Secretary to the Government, that it was a gross mistake on their part to interfere with the 1953 Law to the extent that we had what they called the 'multiple member constituency' for the Lagos Town Council Elections. Now the Minister has seen the folly of the multiple member system. We have reverted to the single member ward, and I think it would have been a grand opportunity for the Minister to draw the attention of the House to it that they have now seen the wisdom of what was pointed out in 1953 and will now do the correct thing. Anyway, I thank the Minister for seeing the necessity for the change.

Now, Sir, I have nothing to quarrel with in the Bill but I think it is only fair, Sir, to put the other side of the picture, and that is in respect of the President's remuneration. Sir, I think it is not fair to say that the Lagos Town Council was unreasonable in the matter. If there was any confusion at all, it has been largely contributed to by the Government. Those of you acquainted with the history of the matter will know, Sir, that it was the Government who, during the time of Olorun Nimbe, said that the provision was not a salary and was not remuneration. It was an allowance to cater for the reception of august visitors to the municipality. That was the interpretation we had from the Government. You said the provision was there and that any time the Mayor now the president, entertains on behalf of the Government, out of that item in the Estimates debits should be made, and it was never given to us as salary to be drawn as such. So if the



old order changeth, then we know that it changeth and you cannot accuse the Lagos Town Council of being stubborn in this case.

Actually what happened in this case contrary to what the Minister said when the Government later changed its mind and directed that it is his salary and got legal opinion of the Attorney-General that it should now be regarded as salary, we then felt that a distinction should be drawn between the salary and the allowances. But we must make provision in our own estimates for entertaining visitors without interfering with what the President draws as salary. Then we decided that there should be a separate item for allowances and it is striking that the Minister did not even mention that in the past estimates there was no provision for allowances as such. It was out of the salary of the President that he was entertaining his visitors.

Now that we want to draw a distinction between the two, we thought that the proper thing to do was to make provision for what we considered an adequate salary as such for the President and the balance to be itemised as entertainment allowance. Having got direction from the Minister, the Oba was drawing £1,800 per annum, we split it into two and said the salary should be £1,000 and £800 should be entertainment allowance. How then did we go wrong? That was the consideration that led to the splitting of that figure into two and it is striking that in the new law that the Minister is putting forward he provides that in addition to the salary of £1,800 there will be a separate item for allowances. After all we who wear the shoe know how it pinches. (*Interruption*).

You do not pay a penny to the rates of Lagos; it is we who reside in Lagos and hold tenements in Lagos who know to what extent we can charge the revenue of the Town Council. After all, the revenue of the Lagos Town Council is not largely grants from the Federal Government. I agree that grants constitute a portion of the revenue, but a big percentage of the revenue is contributions in the form of water and township rates, and because you do give some grants for health and education, that is no reason why you should interfere with the revenue of the Council in this manner.

The point I am making is this. To us it looks as an additional burden on the ratepayers when we have to provide not only what used to

be the entertainment allowance and salary but the whole thing as salary as distinct from the new provision for entertainment. After all, it cost us almost £500 to entertain Dr Nkrumah when we had to give him a civic reception. If the President drew the salary as such and we still had to provide a large sum of money for entertainment as such, we think it is going to be an additional burden on the rate-payers. It is not a question of being stubborn. We have given you our view point in the matter but for certain reasons known to the Ministry they thought they would not budge. That is just by the way.

But there is one principle that is involved. I understand that there are now new local government pundits in the Ministry of Lagos Affairs who say that it is right for the Federal Government to write into the law of Local Government a certain fixed amount. I have never seen it done before. After all, we have to adjust our expenditure within our revenue. What if it becomes difficult for us to get out £1,800 annually? I know it will never be but it is the principle involved. I never heard of a central Government or a Federal Government as we have in this case writing into the Law that the Local Authority shall have on its head an annual debit of such an amount.

**An hon. Member :** Oppose the Bill.

**Mr Dosunmu :** I am not opposing the Bill, I am only trying to explain the other side of the problem. Tomorrow the Lagos Town Council may be wealthy enough to be able to pay its President £2,000. What it means is this, that you have to have recourse to this House again for another amendment to enable us to pay. Tomorrow the financial circumstances of the council may make it not easy for us to pay £1,800 and we can only afford to pay £1,200, and so we have to come back to this House to adjust. I mean, if we are going to be guided by principles let us be guided by principles. The principles should be left inviolate. . . . .

**Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) :** Are you opposing the Oba?

**Mr Dosunmu :** I am not opposing the Oba, I am standing by principle and I have said this that the Oba may be paid any amount.

What I am saying is this. It is not the right thing to write this into the law. After all, with a little understanding between the Minister



[MR AKANDE]  
proved by the Minister. If this provision is not in this Bill, people will keep on cutting salaries as they like to suit their own purpose.

Mr Speaker, I am happy about the powers given to the Municipal Treasurer in this Bill to carry on financial transactions. I hope he will do his duty and not allow people to carry on as they like in the Lagos Town Council.

Mr Speaker, I support the second reading of the Bill.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, no greater tribute can be paid to the Minister of Lagos Affairs than that it was said this morning that the Minister responds to public opinion. That shows democracy. There are places where such things are not listened to. I can see the clauses we have here; of course, the Minister has already said that these do not give us exactly an idea of the principal law. I hope that in the main law the traditional chiefs are not allowed to derogate their status by participating in party politics in the Council. I hope that the Minister will make it impossible for these traditional chiefs to participate during the election of the chairman of the Council, because if they are allowed to participate, they can swing one way or the other and influence the position. I am just warning that it should not be done here because I know it is done elsewhere; it is done in the Western Region. The traditional chiefs are imposed on the Council overnight and are injected there to change the position of the political parties and to capture the Council in such a way that the minority turns out to be the majority in the Council. That is why I am giving this warning. I hope that that is not done here. (*Some hon. Members: No.*) I am glad to hear that. It shows that the Federal Government is setting a good example.

I see there is a provision for a Commissioner for public service. I do know he is the one to advise the Council on the appointment of the staff. I do not know why the Commissioner will not be empowered to appoint the senior members of the staff direct and allow the Local Council to appoint junior officers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the electoral office. I hope the Minister of Lagos Affairs will not allow

appointment of an electoral officer who will not be impartial in dealing with the election.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

*M. Maitama Sule rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

*Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.*

*Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

*(In the Committee)*

*Clauses 1 to 7 agreed to.*

*Clause 8.*

**Mr L. L. Lakunle** (Oyo North): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am particularly happy to see that Clause 8 subsection (b) provides for the establishment of a Municipal Service Commission. Now this was the type of thing I was trying to refer to when I was contributing to the Second Reading of the Education Amendment Bill yesterday. This is the Federal Territory and the Lagos Town Council is supposed to be as good as the Federal Government. Now, at the present time the staff of the Lagos Town Council do not have transport allowance when go on leave, and there are many other anomalies which people are complaining about. I hope that with the establishment of this Commission such anomalies will be looked into and things will be ameliorated in the L.T.C.

*Clause 8 agreed to.*

*Clause 9 agreed to.*

*Clause 10.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power** (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move in Clause 10, line 6 to insert after "shall" the words "with effect from 1st day of April, 1959".

*Question proposed, That those words be there inserted.*

**The Chairman:** I ought perhaps to warn the Oba that he had better speak on this one, because his own would be inconsistent with it.



**Oba Aiyeola, Afolu II (Ijebu Remo)**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the Amendment.

**The Chairman**: No, I am so sorry—at this point, the Amendment cannot itself be moved.

**Oba Aiyeola**: Mr Chairman, I have listened to the amendment which was moved by the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, and my object in opposing this amendment is that I find there seems to be undue interference by the Minister into the working of the Lagos Town Council. Mr Chairman, the President of the Lagos Town Council to-day is the Oba of Lagos in his own right. Let me say that I do oppose this Amendment because these Members of the Lagos Town Council have sufficient opportunity to show their loyalty to their President. In some other parts of the country, and I come first to the Western Region, the remuneration of the President is the concern of the Town Council but is subject to the approval of the Minister. I do not see why this clause should be inserted into the Bill. I do find that some time ago, according to the Minister when there was some misunderstanding between the President and the Lagos Town Council, the Town Council proposed to increase rates. The Minister refused and the net result was that the Council tried to deduct the sum of £300 as entertainment allowance from the remuneration of the President.

Mr Chairman, whether this action of the Lagos Town Council is a reasonable one or not is not for me to argue, but I may say, Sir, that in view of the circumstances surrounding the incident, it occurred to me that such an action might be regarded as in defiance of justifiable law. Mr Chairman, the people of Lagos, those who are members of the Lagos Town Council, it was they who, when they came to office in 1953 raised the status of the Oba of Lagos. At that time, Sir, members of the Lagos Town Council, those of them who belong to the Action Group, were hand-in-glove with their President at that time. But I say, Sir, that an old friend is invariably better than a new one. Why, if the Minister knows that he wishes to come to the aid of the President and at the present time pay £1,000 to the President who is the Oba of Lagos? I think that this sum of £1,000 is small compared with the resources that come to the revenue of Government, and I would think the sum of £2,500 should be paid to the

President or Oba of Lagos from the coffers of the Federal Government, and let the Town Council show their loyalty to the Oba. To-day this is a misunderstanding, but tomorrow it will be effective. Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose this Amendment.

**Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun East)**: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that it is a pity that this hon. Oba should become the mouthpiece for this feeling on this matter. When the other Bill was being passed this morning everybody who was present in this House supported it in face of facts, and we thought the same thing would take place in the passing of this Bill this afternoon. However, the truth is out. It is for the people of Lagos now to know those people who are genuinely interested in their affairs. I think that the main reason for this provision is obvious. It has been stated again and again, and it should not be necessary to repeat it if it were not for the speech made by the hon. Oba.

The proposal is to make the Oba of Lagos, who is the President of the Lagos Town Council, secure in his office, to stop him from being a political football in Lagos. It is generally said that when the head is rotten the whole body is useless. Lagos is the capital of Nigeria, and it would be deplorable if we could not make an arrangement in Lagos that would lead to stability in this place. Lagos is the place where every person from the Eastern Region, from the Western Region, and from the Northern Region, even people from other countries who may come on a visit, they may all come to Lagos, and we do not want to have chaos in this place called Lagos. The people of Lagos are lucky to have this place as the capital of Nigeria, and it is our duty to make such arrangements as will bring prestige to this town of Lagos. And that is what we are doing.

Many of us who are here do not belong to Lagos, but we have an abiding interest in Lagos because Lagos is the capital city of our grand country. And I say this without any desire to be controversial—I think that it is regrettable that the Oba should oppose this provision. If a young man in the Action Group were to oppose this provision I would not be surprised, but I think it is a matter of great regret that the Oba opposed it. I am sure the Members of this House will repeat the conviction of reasonable people in this country, that the Oba of Lagos should be above



*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clauses 12 to 22 agreed to.*

*Clause 23.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** I beg to move, Mr Chairman, that Clause 23, page C159, line 8, leave out from "by" to end of line 10, and add "(a) by the deletion of the words 'when marking his vote' in subsection (1) and the substitution of the following 'when casting his vote'; (b) by the deletion in subsection (1) of the words 'No person shall' to the end of the subsection".

*Amendment proposed.*

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clauses 24 to 40 agreed to.*

*Clause 41.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** I beg to move that Clause 41 page C163, line 40, at end add "Provided that the council may in any particular case by resolution for good reason waive any percentage increase or part thereof provided for by this subsection".

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*Clause 41, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clauses 42 to 55 agreed to.*

*First Schedule.*

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** Mr Chairman, I rise to move that on the First Schedule :

Page C166, line 14, leave out "11 (2)", "22", "23".

Page C166, line 15, after "80 (2)" insert "82 (3)".

Page C166, line 17, leave out first "(1) and".

Page C166, line 18, after "135 (2)" insert "141 (5)".

*Amendment put and agreed to.*

*First Schedule, as amended, agreed to.*

*Second Schedule, agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported with amendments.*

*Motion made and question proposed, that the Bill be now read the Third Time. (The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power.)*

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to thank the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power on behalf of the people of Lagos for his interest in the people of Lagos. I also want to thank the Minister for accepting the Amendment that the Councillors should be paid sitting allowances. Finally, Sir, I mean it when I say that the soap-box is not the right place for any Oba.

**Mr J. A. O. Akande** (Egba North): While rising to thank the Minister for this important Bill I would like the Minister to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the Council shall make safe and efficient arrangements for the receipt of money paid to it and those arrangements shall be carried out under the supervision of the Municipal Treasurer.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

#### NURSES BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Health** (Hon. Ayo Rosiji): I rise to move that a Bill entitled the Nurses Ordinance, 1959 be now read the second time.

Sir, the main objects of this Bill are simple and are I am certain to commend themselves to the Members of this House. There are two of them. The first is to recast the constitution of the Nursing Council for Nigeria to make provision for full equitable representation of regional interests on that body. This follows upon decisions taken at the last Constitutional Conference, and the revised membership of the Nursing Council for Nigeria is as set out in the First Schedule to the Bill. Hon. Members will note, I hope with satisfaction, that the broader and more representative the nature of the Council will serve to see that regional interests are fully protected. The second object of this Bill is to give continuing, and I hope permanent, effect to a valuable concessions made to Nurses trained at the University College, Ibadan.

This concession is that those nurses qualifying at University College Hospital are automatically entitled to reciprocal recognition by the Nursing Council for England and Wales. The Nursing Council for England and Wales, being impressed by the high standards of training and the excellent facilities at University College Hospital have agreed to extend recognition on



reciprocal basis for a limited period—a period which expires at the end of this present calendar year. A condition of reciprocal recognition on a continuing basis was that this Government should give formal legislative recognition to the qualifications obtained at the University College Hospital. Hon. Members will notice that this is done in the second schedule to the Bill. The value of this concession, in its most elementary terms, is that these nurses will not have to go overseas to the United Kingdom to obtain the S.R.N. qualification. This concession will also enable these nurses to be accepted for further training in specialised fields of nursing, without first taking a qualifying examination in the United Kingdom.

Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Dr E. O. Awduche** (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with the greatest pleasure that I wholeheartedly support this very progressive and non-contentious Bill.

As the Minister has said, it seeks to enlarge the representation on the existing Nurses Council and also to provide facilities for the registration of nurses who qualify outside Nigeria and, in some cases, outside of the United Kingdom. I hope that when the Regional Councils are established they will also be enlarged so as to be as representative as the new Nursing Council. The former Nursing Council consisted of only seven members and could be described as a "nurseless council" that is, a Nursing Council without nurses. It comprised only the Director of Medical Services, the Matron who is, of course, an officer and some other professional medical staff who are not nurses themselves. In this new Council there are going to be twenty; of these twenty members well over ten of them are nurses who are appointed from the Regions, and I hope that when they are being appointed, the Nigerian Union of Nurses will be taken into confidence. As I said before, there is nothing contentious about this Bill and I commend this Bill to hon. Members.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether the people in the profession itself, have any knowledge of this Bill and whether they support it, whether the Minister had any consultation with the nursing profession when this Bill was being prepared. That is my first question. I want an explanation about that.

The next thing refers to this Schedule. I want the Minister to tell us how soon he expects the Principal Matron to be a Nigerian. I say this because when Ghana became independent they found that. . . .

**An hon. Member**: How is that relevant?

**Mr Jaja Wachuku**: It is relevant because the question of the policy of training our girls in the nursing profession in the light of circumstances here will sooner or later be determined by our own people. I am talking about Ghana. Ghana has been able to do it. Shortly after their independence, a Ghanaian woman was seconded. Later she became a Matron and later a Minister of State. I want to know how soon you can produce a Nigerian Principal Matron.

There is no need to try and state that because the Medical Department has made a favourable comment, then all is well; we are not as happy as all that in all respects. I hope the Minister himself will be able to elucidate that point and not hide under the cloak of anonymity.

**Mr A. Adeyinka** (Ibadan Central). Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I would just like to emphasise the point already made. My point is that the Minister should consider in the proposed Council that the Trade Union representatives should be there. It is unfair to the Trade movement that they are not represented there. We do not want to set the interests of Trade Unions aside in the representation of the Council. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 to 17 agreed to.*

*Schedules 1 to 4 agreed to.*



*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment.*

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read a Third Time—(The Minister of Health).*

**Mr Jaja Wachuku (Aba):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to point out to the Minister concerned that the fact that this Bill has passed without comment shows clearly the contempt with which this House regarded it. Because no reasonable person thought it necessary to make any comment.

**Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha):** Mr Speaker, Sir, the speed with which the Bill has passed through the House through all stages, shows how efficient the Minister has been in carrying out his duty.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.*

PRODUCE (ENFORCEMENT OF EXPORT STANDARDS) BILL.

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill for an Ordinance to be entitled "The Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Ordinance, 1959". This Bill represents the second stage in the process of giving legal effect to the decisions of the last two Constitutional Conferences regarding produce inspection. It was agreed at the earlier Conference that grades and standards of quality for produce should be prescribed by the Federal Government but enforced in the Regions by the Regional Produce Inspection Services. It was also agreed that the Federal Government Inspection Service should carry out such testing of produce at the port, and that produce inspection in the Federal Territory should be left to the Western Regional Produce Services since most of the produce sold in Lagos for export originate in the Western Region.

As I have said, you have the Export of Nigerian Produce Ordinance, 1958. This vested in the Federal Government the power of prescribing the grades and standards of quality of produce purchased by Marketing Boards for

export. It now remains to provide for enforcement by primary grading in Federal Territory and by such testing at the Port. This is the object of the present Bill which applies only to the Federal Territory and also at port of shipment. It is for the Regional Governments to enact their own legislation for the primary grading of produce in the Regions. In the meantime, the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950, will continue in force in the Regions but not in the Federal territory.

This Bill has been drafted in close consultation with the Regional Governments and will, I expect, to some extent, provide a model for their own legislation. The principal innovation in the Bill is that there are Produce Inspection Boards to be set up in order to advise the Minister to make regulations to prescribe grades and standards of quality. At present, there is a small Board which itself makes regulations subject to their being tabled in Regional Houses and approved in this House. This is rather cumbersome.

I do not need to emphasize the importance of having legislation to provide the means for ensuring that Nigerian produce for export is of good quality and highly competitive in the world market. In this, all Nigeria must co-operate, and I am glad to inform you that, as a result of my recent visit to Europe, everybody talked of the high quality of Nigerian produce (*Applause*). I therefore commend this Bill to this House. It is highly non-controversial and has the agreement and approval of all the Regional Legislatures. I am sure it will pass without a debate. Sir, I beg to move.

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

*Question proposed.*

**Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu):** Mr Speaker, Sir, since it is so important that we make assurance doubly sure that our produce will be of the finest quality when it leaves the shores of this country to find its way in the world market, this Bill is a very welcome Bill, and since the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Health are very efficient Ministers, we must treat one son as we treat the other. So long as the other Bill passed this House without an Amendment, I do not see how we are going to amend what this able and energetic Minister has produced.



But let me say that the fact that it has been approved by all the Regional Legislatures is no guarantee that this Federal House that carries out the overall inspection must be a rubber stamp; because it happens to be approved or endorsed in the other Legislatures.

Anyway, Mr Speaker, Sir, seriously it is a very welcome Bill and our name must be maintained in all sections of the world where our export produce happens to find its way as it is upon this commodity that we depend for the social services and the re-construction upon which we are now embarking. That you brought this Bill before the end of this session shows that you are working very hard indeed. I support whole heartedly.

**Mr U. O. Ndem** (Calabar): Mr Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill. Firstly, because by setting a standard whereby our produce could be judged overseas we are advertising our country in the commercial world in the best way possible. It would not be a good idea if only Regional Governments set down standards and then in the Federal territory there is no standard at all. I think this Bill will give us an opportunity to advertise our country in the world of commerce. But the Bill, being good as it is, could be made meaningless if those who will be responsible for carrying out the inspection of produce had difficulties.

The Produce Inspection Officers are the people who, in the final analysis, will implement the provisions of this Bill. I find, Sir, that there are a lot of difficulties to which some of them are being exposed. I have in mind, Sir, a case of a certain Produce Officer who was very favourably reported upon by another Senior Produce Officer, but another Officer who was not happy with this African Produce Officer felt very dissatisfied with that report and then took the trouble to call for that report to be cancelled and another report of his own dictation brought to the Department in order that he might victimise that African Officer.

The first report, which was dated in March last year, makes this remark, if you permit me Mr Speaker, I shall read it very briefly. The report says "This Officer showed signs that his performance generally would have been a lot better had his general attitude not been marred by a clash of personality with one of my colleagues". Having said so much, it went on

to suggest that this Officer should be encouraged and any effort made to give him his promotion would be welcome. This report reached another senior officer who was not satisfied and then he went further to see that that report was cancelled and another of his own dictation substituted. The one substituted by him reads like this "Mr B. . . ."

**M. Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki** (South West Central Kano): A point of Order. Mr Speaker, this is a straightforward case which the hon. Member can take up outside with the Minister.

**Mr Speaker**: I was about to raise this matter. On a Bill of this scale and magnitude it is clearly not a suitable means for debate. If it is desired to raise a complaint about one certain individual or a few individuals this could be attended to by the Minister outside this House.

**Mr Ndem**: I was doing this because there has been a lot of happenings which if we do not take care might mar even the spirit of this Bill. When we have our own standards set we have, human beings who will handle this machinery which we are going to set up, and if their lot is not taken care of, if they are allowed to become the footstool of other officers who do not like the look of their faces, then we defeat the purpose of this Bill. As it is now, even the Union controlling this part of the Department is in trouble with the Police because the Union happened to get hold of these confidential letters. The Department says that the Union has done something wrong by getting hold of these confidential letters and so they are now with the Police. That is why the matter is very urgent. The books of the Union and everything connected with the Union have been impounded by the Police. But in any case we are not going to that now.

**Mr Speaker**: That will remain a matter for departmental action on the instigation, I am sure, of the hon. Member.

**Mr Ndem**: Thank you, Sir. I welcome the Bill on the whole. As I said before, the Bill is non-controversial and it is really necessary to set up to the standards for the sake of the reputation of this country. I hope that the Minister in charge would look into the things I have mentioned and see that they are rectified.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill.



**M. Jalo Waziri (Gombe):** Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is welcome, it is progressive and I congratulate the Minister for introducing it at the right time. Most people in this country are without the means of livelihood from producing these commodities that are exported and it is greatly important that we look after the produce that we export. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is equally important that we take the greatest care to produce the best commodities in this country. I support the Bill.

**Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. I think that it would help the Government very much if steps are taken to ensure that check testing which the Minister has referred to is done as quickly as possible by as many officers as possible. Anyone who has any experience of the process of check testing may realise the difficulty in which any delay in the test puts the traders concerned and goes to impoverish the quality of the produce.

For example, Sir, if a load of palm oil is brought up for check testing, the longer it is delayed the more the fatty acid rises and the more the possibility of its falling below the standard prescribed by the Government. If it is accepted very quickly and put into the bulk oil plant and chemically treated then the quality is preserved and the high quality which we all desire to have is maintained. But, Sir, delay in check testing has always caused a lot of trouble to the produce dealers and I should be very grateful if the Minister would take serious note of it and make sure that at every point where produce is tested a sufficient number of produce officers should be made available so as to make sure that the produce is received in time before it falls below the accepted standard. It will help the traders themselves who have had to cover the cost of the lorry in one season to reduce their losses. By not allowing the lorries to be delayed for about three or four days before the produce is accepted and tested.

*(Interruptions).*

I think it is unfortunate that this matter is coming up at the time when the House is very impatient. It is a very important point and those who have anything to do with produce business in this country will highly appreciate the point.

**Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister for bringing

this Bill and particularly I would like to call the attention of the House to clause 10 of this Bill which provides for the punishment of Inspectors who sometimes pass low grade produce for export. I think it is a welcome provision. I did not intend to speak on this Bill but for that provision, because, in my view, the Produce Department is very, very corrupt and it is very wise that a provision like this should be inserted in the Bill so that whenever any Inspector is caught who has passed a sub-standard produce he should be prosecuted. I am happy to see that the punishment is £200. I think it is a very wise provision and I hope that the Minister will make certain that this is enforced.

*Whereupon Mallam Maitama Sule rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put, but Mr Speaker withheld his assent and declined then to put that Question.*

**Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East):** It may not be generally known how important this Bill is until it is brought home to Members on all sides of this House. This is a Bill that deals with the standard of produce in this country, and we have always been talking about our standard of produce so that they would be able to compete with products of other countries in the world market. I am very happy that the Minister of Commerce and Industry has been able, within such a short time of receiving the report from the Committee on Aids to African Businessmen to bring this Bill to the House, because it stems from one of the recommendations of the Committee on which I sat as a member.

Produce in this country is such that if it goes out into the world market it should be a credit to this country. We have potential sources of produce and any Bill that will make our produce to leave the shores in a better condition will be a welcome Bill.

I have only one advice to give and it is this, that the Produce Inspection Department appears to be a bit tardy in approving grading stations. I have in mind a produce station like Ughelli. We applied for the station to be gazetted as a produce station. There is quite a lot of produce in the place, but it is always very difficult to get the Produce Inspection Department to grant this licence for a station to be gazetted as a Produce Station. I want them to



bear that in mind so that any application coming from any part of the country should be considered. We want the Produce to be properly dealt with so that they can go abroad to compete in the world market. Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill.

*Whereupon Mallam Maitama Sule again 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 and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clause 1.*

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry** (Hon. M. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to move in clause 1 page C 188 line 14, to leave out "day of" and insert "1st day of December",

*Question, That "day of" be left out put and agreed to.*

*Question, That "1st Day of December" be there inserted put and agreed to.*

*Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clauses 2 and 9 agreed to.*

*Clause 10.*

**Mr M. A. Sanni** (Oshun South): Sir, I just want to call attention to a small mistake in line 14. For the word "grade" after "or", insert "graded".

**The Chairman**: That is a misprint and I assure the hon. Gentleman that that missing 'd' will be put right in the re-printing of the Bill for signature.

**Mr H. M. Adaji** (North Igala): Sir, there is an implication here. I have noticed in several stations that after an Inspector has graded a produce and perhaps has gone to some other business somewhere the traders pack the hides and other things and refill into the bags and then put the good ones on the top, cover it in the bag and some other things like that. In very many cases an Inspector does not know actually when bags are refilled with bad

kernels, especially at stations where kernels are being bought. The clerk in charge of such buying stations should also be answerable for some of the offences and if possible some people should be appointed to watch the produce after they have been accepted by the Produce Inspector. Otherwise the Produce Inspectors will be liable to punishment for which they are not guilty.

I appeal to the Government that an Inspector should not be allowed to look after two buying stations whether they are in the same town or in the neighbouring villages. For instance in my town, Sir, there are Messrs John Holt, U.A.C. and John Holt No. 2. Only one Inspector is put to look after these three stations and in case he accepts some goods here and goes to inspect some goods in the U.A.C. only God knows what happens in his absence. That is why I am appealing on behalf of the Inspectors. At times they have about 200 people to attend to. When they have accepted the produce they have to go and allow the owners to refill them into the bags and will go to inspect the neighbouring produce (but you do not know what is going on here). It is after they have been refilled that they seal them up. So this particular clause should be looked into.

*Clause 10 agreed to.*

*Clauses 11 to 27 agreed to.*

*First and second schedules agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported with an amendment, read the Third Time and passed.*

#### LIQUOR (LICENSING) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, the time is far spent and I am sure members will thank me if I introduce very briefly the second reading of the Liquor (Licensing) Bill. The provisions of the present Ordinance were examined by a Committee on which the Town Clerk, representatives of the Lagos Liquor Licensing Board and of the Police and other interested Departments and Ministries served. The Ordinance was drafted on their recommendations and although on very much the same lines as the old Ordinance it contains a



[MR JOHNSON]  
certain amount of new provisions which are called for by the changes in the circumstances since the old Ordinance was drafted in 1919.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Minister of Finance** (Hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the amendment as on the Order paper.

*Question that "District" in clause 2 page C140 line 11, be left out put and agreed to.*

*Question that "Area" be there inserted put and agreed to.*

*Clause 2 as amended agreed to.*

*Clauses 3 to 7 agreed to.*

*Clause 8.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs**: Sir, I beg to move clause 8, page C143, line 16, after "purpose" to insert "and managed by a properly constituted committee the members of which are elected annually by the members of the club".

*Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.*

*Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clause 9.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs**: Sir, I beg to move clause 9, page C143, line 41, leave out from "licence" to end of line 48 and insert:—

"(a) shall only be granted to the holder of a licence to sell liquor for consumption on specified premises or to the occupier of the premises in respect of which the licence is granted;

(b) if granted to the holder of a licence as aforesaid, shall not authorise the sale of any type of liquor which the holder is not authorised to sell under that licence;

(c) shall not be granted for the sale of liquor at any place other than—

(i) a place of recreation, public amusement or other assembly: or

(ii) a *bona fide* private residence for the purposes of a function to be held thereat ;"

*Question, That the words from "licence" to end of line 48 be left out, put and agreed to.*

*Question, That the new subsections (a), (b) and (c) (i) and (ii) be there inserted, put and agreed to.*

*Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.*

*Clauses 10-12 agreed to.*

*Part III, clauses 15-30 agreed to.*

*Part IV, clause 31 agreed to.*

*Part V, clause 32 agreed to.*

*Part VI, clauses 33-35 agreed to.*

*Clause 36.*

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Chairman, I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for this provision. I had already filed a Motion prohibiting a child under 18 years of age from taking part in drinking intoxicating liquor, and this provision has met that in a way. So I congratulate the Minister.

*Clause 36 agreed to.*

*Clauses 37-46 agreed to.*

*Part VII, clause 47-53 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

*Bill reported with amendments.*

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

**Dr E. U. Udoma** (Opobo): Mr Speaker, I notice that in this law there is no definition of what is "wine" and it is said that nobody should manufacture wine without a licence from the Minister. I hope that it does not mean production of palm wine, because there is no definition in the *Definition* clause as to which one is referred to. Palm wine is the common wine here that people drink.

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): There are some people in this country, Sir, who are very anxious that research should be made into illicit gin so that it may become legalised. I hope that the Minister will look into that.



Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn sine die—(The Minister of Labour and Welfare).

**Mr T. O. S. Benson** (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of this hon. House, I rise to congratulate you all on the able way this House has tackled the problems facing this country during the five years of its tenure of office on this eve of its dissolution. (*Inter-ruption*).

**Dr E. U. Udoma** (Opobo): Hon. Benson is now the Prime Minister?

**Mr Benson**: As for the Prime Minister, he deserves special congratulations. (*Hear, hear*).

I am sure all hon. Members will agree with me that the successful way in which this Government has handled debates on the different Bills that have come before it, has been magnificent. (*Hear, hear*.) Despite the hard cracks that we have given each other and the thrusts of criticisms that have been levelled against the Government, there has been that spirit of team work without animosity or ill-will either way. (*Hear, hear*).

Much praise should go to the Speaker of the House who has directed the debates in this House, and if this outgoing House has achieved the success it has achieved, it is all due to the patience and guidance of our Speaker. (*Applause*).

We are all going out to test the confidence of our different electorates by seeking once again their votes to be returned to the new House which will meet in January 1960 and which House will usher us into our longed for desire for Independence.

It will not be too much if some showers of praises are directed to the Governor-General and his Council of Ministers (*Hear, hear*) who have directed the policy of the Government to such a satisfactory end. (*Hear, hear*).

I pray that when the House meets, we shall see almost all the same faces in this House, and if not all, most of them. I congratulate this House, and wish us all long life and a happy reunion when the new House reassembles in January 1960. (*Applause*).

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation** (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): I must be grateful to my Friend, hon. T. O. S. Benson, for affording us an opportunity of putting a word across on this occasion. I do not like to tread the path already over-trodden by Members who are exchanging parting greetings. I want to stress what has appealed to me as the greatest contribution ever made by this House within the last five years of its existence.

Whatever may be our political achievements, may soon pass into history, and I do hope that history will have a very good word to say about this particular Parliament.

Much has been said about achievements in the realm of politics, in the realm of economics, in the realm of education, and it is not my intention to tread that path again. I have been extremely impressed by the record of sincere friendship which the members of various political parties have been able to build up among themselves within the last five years. (*Applause*.) It is true that there have been occasions for brick-bats; there have been expensive jokes; there have been entertaining humours; and there have also been very sharp exchanges of words. But down at the bottom of all this, and transcending all this has been that genuine and sincere friendship which has existed between us. And I do hope that whatever might be the vicissitudes of our political lives, this friendship will outlive everything else.

I believe that members of all parties here may refer to themselves as members of various and opposing political views. We may also refer to ourselves as members from various Regions. But I think as a result of our association here, very few of us would ten, fifteen, twenty years from now go to Bauchi and still regard ourselves as enemies. If we go to Bauchi and we only look at the Prime Minister's house and we know we go to the Prime Minister's house, we do not go there to meet a political opponent, but to meet a Friend. I think the same thing is true of our friends from all parts of the Federation. I am not speaking just of the immediate present, and I am not thinking of the immediate political campaign prospects. I am thinking of the state of mind of the Members here which transcends every political consideration. It



[CHIEF AKINTOLA]  
does not matter if one wins all the elections in this world and he celebrates his victory without any friend whatsoever. That is not the type of victory anybody would like to celebrate. And even when you lose your elections and you lose everything in the world, if you can still boast of sincere friendship, you have lost nothing.

I think whatever this House might have lost, we have won a singular triumph in one respect, and that is we have built up lasting friendship amongst ourselves. And may that spirit of amity, that spirit of sincere friendship, that spirit of mutual esteem and reciprocal respect outlive this and other Parliaments. (*Applause*).

**M. Maitama Sule** (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree with and endorse every word that the Minister of Communications and Aviation has said. We in this honourable Legislature, having come from various political parties, with ideologies that might be diametrically opposed to each other, still do believe in certain things.

We have been able to establish certain things in this honourable House. We have been able to inculcate into the minds of everybody in this Legislature a spirit of unity. A spirit of tolerance has existed amongst everyone of us, and there is also the spirit of nationalism irrespective of our party affiliations.

Now that we are going back to our respective constituencies, and now that we are going back to campaign for the next Federal Elections, there is one thing we must always put in mind. We must preach to our own people this spirit of unity that has existed in this House. We must preach to our own people this spirit of tolerance that has existed in this House. We must also preach to our people this spirit of nationalism. We will lose nothing by preaching them. In fact, the country will gain a great deal. Let us therefore go back with full determination to preach that unity is paramount, no matter what our political differences may be. Let us go back and tell our people that regardless of political achievements that whatever we may have achieved in the past, we can achieve very little without this unity.

Sir, I believe that every hon. Member of this House should be congratulated for these spirits that have existed within the last five years and we should go back to our homes fully confident. And we can tell our consciences that the five years here have not been wasted. We have done extremely good work, and I hope it will make our people realise the work that we have done by emulating the good example that we have set in this honourable Legislature.

Sir, I beg to support.

**Chief J. I. G. Onyia** (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very interesting speech and I cannot go without contributing my own quota.

At least, Mr Speaker, I think I represent a class, the honourable class of sexagenarians. Some people say I should be a museum piece and they call me all sorts of names, and I have borne all in this House in good faith with a view to enjoying some fun. I say, Sir, I am a class by my own, or perhaps I represent the elders in this House along with Chief Shodipo, Chief Olaleye and Chief Omo-Osagie. And a good gathering will you have with the youths mixing with the elders together and throwing brick-bats! We know that the elders must always go along with the youths to be able to check the impetuosity of the youths. Sometimes I feel that the youths are intolerant of the elders and sometimes I feel we should not work together.

Chief Akintola should move a Motion to exterminate all elders so that anybody who does attain the age of sixty must die. But I fear that a world of youths must go into cataclysm. (*Applause*.)

**Mr Jaja Wachuku** (Aba): Mr Speaker, Sir, Chief Akintola made a speech from the heart devoid of politics, a farewell speech to all Members. We have had our differences, politically. We are going to have our differences politically. As long as you have ideological differences, there must be political differences. Then the important thing is the intention. We count ourselves as lawyers that no sooner we finish very arduous work in the court, you find the two so-called enemies in the court jumping into the same car, going to the same table, dining together and drinking together.



But, Sir, that will not make me hand my brief to my other colleague. My duty is to my client first. And my second duty is to assist the court to understand the case of my client; and the other person has the same duty to his client and to the court. And consequently, it is the court that will be the umpire.

Now, we have come here, Sir, for the past five years, some of us very raw, but in the years that have passed we have gone through the crucible, and we have developed to be the nucleus of Nigeria.

When the Prime Minister was speaking the other day about the position of Nigeria in the near future, the leadership that is bound to be ours by sheer force of circumstance, I reflect and think of the enormous responsibility that every Member of the three hundred and twelve Members that will be selected sometimes in December this year will take.

**An hon. Member :** It is three hundred and twenty.

**Mr Jaja Wachuku :** The eight Cameroonians will not be there.

Now, Sir, it is all well and good to answer the hon. Member but that word has its own connotation. It implies great responsibility. For those who return I say, Sir, great responsibility lies ahead and to those who come to this House just to collect their mileage and monthly allowances and disappear. In the past some have shelved their responsibility but there is one thing I would not like to see again in a House like this. I would not like to see twelve Bills being listed to be passed in one day. We must praise what we have done but it does no credit to any House to list twelve Bills to be passed in one day.

I am saying, Sir, before I come to the end of my speech that I have enjoyed being here and I was happy at the banquet the other night to learn that it was not a farewell banquet, rather it was a kind of thanksgiving banquet in honour of the Speaker. Because I would like, Sir, by January that our people should be able to elect somebody who will either be the Deputy Speaker or Speaker Designate studying, then the short meeting of January and then to that important meeting the Budget Session, going through the various processes, reading and interpreting Standing Orders, how to handle these things and, Sir, later on to be able to handle the affairs of three hundred and

twelve people during the Supplementary Budget Session with all its intricacies and to observe the difference between the Budget Session, and the simple meeting of January. So that on the 1st of October, say on the 30th of September when the power is handed over to the Council of Ministers. And then on the 1st of October you have the inaugural Session of the House of Representatives of independent Nigeria.

I would like, Sir, whether from the Gallery or the Floor of this House to see the Speaker ceremoniously and in a dignified form transferring his power, his responsibility, to the new Speaker. I think that will be a fitting climax; but I cannot just imagine the type of emotion that he will go through in this House, and I would like to say that I was not happy at one time when there was a suggestion that a non-member should be brought to this House as Speaker. I did not like it at all. I was trying to move a Motion—the Speaker did not like it himself.

Now, Sir,—a new Speaker will take about twelve months to train, so that when power is transferred to the Cabinet it will be from a seasoned Speaker to a new Speaker who will not be treading on raw ground without any guidance. With that remark I want to say to those who will not succeed in the election and those who will come back to the House, Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish them well. If you do not serve in this House there are other aspects in this country—we have the economic aspects of this country's life; you have the social aspect of the country, we have the social spheres; we can serve in various places. So I think we should bid our friends farewell, those who will not be here again.

But we would like to recall our past memories, those who have been in this House for five years, and the newcomers who have been here only three years. If we return we shall be the elder statesmen and with my closing remarks, whatever we do in this House, try to develop to be a statesman. Do very little to be a politician; a politician has an eye on the next election, but a statesman is a man who has an eye on the posterity and history of this nation. He does not care for the immediate benefits, he only wants to lay the foundation of the future Nigeria.

With these remarks, I beg to support.



## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### APPENDIX

#### POLICE

##### Motor Licencing

**W.57. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Prime Minister, whether, in view of the difficulties of communication and the considerable distance between Bamenda and the Victoria Motor Licensing Authority, he will consider establishing another Motor Licensing Authority at Bamenda to serve Nkambe, Wum, Mamfe and Bamenda Divisions.

**The Prime Minister:** No, Sir. In accordance with accepted policy within the Federation, the Government of the Southern Cameroons will soon, it is hoped, take over the duties of Motor Registration in the Southern Cameroons. It is not therefore intended to extend the present services provided by the Nigeria Police.

##### Scholarship in Wireless Section

**W.58. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Prime Minister, how many policemen in the Wireless Section have been awarded scholarships to train in their field of work.

**The Prime Minister:** None, Sir. The wireless operators in the Nigeria Police are trained in the transmission and reception of messages in Morse but because of the nature of the equipment used they are not required to carry out more technical duties as are some

**The Prime Minister:** The figures required are as follows:—

		Cases charged							
		By Nigeria Police Ikeja				By Nigeria Police Mushin			
Month		To Magistrate's Court		To Customary Court		To Magistrate's Court		To Customary Court	
		Felonies	Total	Felonies	Total	Felonies	Total	Felonies	Total
1958	August	28	137	—	—	33	53	4	26
	September	24	138	—	—	24	55	7	39
	October	29	154	3	3	43	92	6	29
	November	13	126	19	43	46	105	11	37
	December	7	75	23	39	36	68	14	34
1959	January	6	74	13	38	39	65	14	49
	February	5	84	7	33	6	28	39	82

other wireless staff in the Public Service. In consequence of this it is possible to employ on these duties men whose formal education is below the standard that would be required for admission to technical courses leading to posts of higher responsibility. The one Nigerian Assistant Superintendent of Police (Signals) at present serving was transferred from the Posts and Telegraphs Department, where he had already acquired the necessary training.

##### A.S.P. in Wireless Section

**W.59. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians hold the post of Assistant Superintendent of Police in the Wireless Section of the Police Force.

**The Prime Minister:** One, Sir.

**W.68. Mr A. A. Ajibola** asked the Prime Minister, if he will state how many cases were charged to court in each of the months within the period August 1958 to February 1959 by the Police detachments at Ikeja and Mushin respectively, indicating how many of these were charged by each of the detachments to the Magistrate's court and to Customary courts in each of the months within that period, and how many of the cases charged to the Magistrate's court and the Customary courts were felonies.



## PUBLIC SERVICE

## Special Lists "A" and "B"

W.69. Mallam Abubakar Garba asked the Prime Minister to explain the difference between the two schemes for expatriate officers known as Special List 'A' and Special List 'B'.

**The Prime Minister :** The scheme known as Special List 'A' applies to the Public Services of the Federation and of the three Regions ; the Special List 'B' scheme has been adopted by the Governments of the Federation and of the Northern Region and a variation of it has been adopted by the Government of the Western Region. A similar variation has recently been adopted by the Government of the Eastern Region. This reply is concerned only with the Public Service of the Federation.

2. Both schemes were evolved as a result of the desire of the United Kingdom Government and of the Governments in Nigeria that experienced civil servants from overseas should continue to be available to serve the Governments in Nigeria until qualified and experienced Nigerians could take their places in the Public Services of the self-governing Regions and the independent Federation.

3. Special List 'A' sought to solve the problem by assuring the overseas officer of the continuance, up to (if he wished) the normal compulsory retiring-age of 55, of the career to which the Secretary of State for the Colonies had appointed him. As each part of the Federation became self-governing its overseas staff ceased to be under the protection and control of the Secretary of State unless some special arrangement were made, and it was in this respect that the career which each officer had expected would last till he was fifty-five came to an end. (Not that there was no longer work of a kind that he could do (it is because there is work and not enough qualified and experienced Nigerian staff to do it that the Special List schemes were worked out) but that the Secretary of State could no longer control the conditions under which it was done.) Each Government in Nigeria therefore agreed that as and when it became self-governing it would apply to its overseas staff arrangements under which an entitled officer could, if he wished, retire and be paid compensation for the loss of the career in which he could, but for constitutional changes, have continued under the protection and control of the Secretary of State until he was fifty-five. This is what is

colloquially called "lump-sum compensation". No such compensation is yet payable to any overseas officer in the Federal Public Service ; but the Government of the Federation has undertaken to make similar arrangements with effect from the date of Independence.

4. In many cases, however, the Government needed the services of overseas officers after self-government (or Independence) because qualified and experienced Nigerians were not available in sufficient numbers ; many overseas officers wished to continue their service in Nigeria if means could be found to give them, by agreement of the Government in Nigeria, the security that the Secretary of State had previously guaranteed for them ; and the United Kingdom Government wished to assure Nigeria of help with experienced staff until the country could do without overseas staff because suitable Nigerians were ready. Proposals were therefore made by the Colonial Office and discussed with Nigerian representatives at the 1957 Constitutional Conference, changes were agreed upon and the scheme that resulted was accepted by the Federal and Regional Governments.

5. The essence of the scheme (in regard to the Federal Government) was that the United Kingdom Government would create a "Special List" of officers of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service who were serving in Nigeria and who applied and were accepted for membership of that List. These officers would be regarded as being in the service of the United Kingdom Government and seconded for service with the Federal Government upon terms and conditions that the Secretary of State considered reasonable. If for good reason an officer was no longer required by the Federal Government (and the officer was not at fault), he would revert to the United Kingdom Government which would try to find other suitable employment for him. If no such employment could immediately be found, the United Kingdom Government would pay him full salary while search continued—if need be, for five years or until he was fifty-five, whichever was the sooner—and if the search was then unsuccessful would pay him the compensation appropriate under the Federal Government's scheme and recover one-half of it from the Federal Government. The United Kingdom Government would pay such officers their pensions and recover them from the Federal Government.



[THE PRIME MINISTER]

6. In order to get the benefits of this scheme each party to it agreed to give up some of its rights and to accept some obligations.

*The Federal Government*, which otherwise would have been entitled after Independence to make such arrangements in regard to its overseas staff as it pleased, without regard to the wishes of the Secretary of State, agreed to pay such salaries as he considered reasonable and agreed to give at least one year's notice of its desire to dispense with the services of any officer on Special List 'A' (save in cases of invalidating or removal for misconduct or inefficiency).

*The Officer* agreed to give up his right to compensation for loss of career (unless the United Kingdom Government was unsuccessful for five years after he ceased to be required in Nigeria to find him other employment) and to serve in any post, not generally less favourable than that he held in Nigeria, to which the United Kingdom Government might assign him.

*The United Kingdom Government* agreed to seek other employment for Special List officers no longer required in Nigeria and, in the meantime, to pay them full salary for up to five years (or the age of fifty-five) and agreed also to pay them compensation (if the search for other employment failed) and pension; one half of any salary or compensation so paid and all pension payments to be recoverable from the Federal Government.

7. This scheme was not as successful as the Governments had hoped. Early in 1958 figures showed that larger numbers of overseas officers than could readily be spared from the Eastern and Western Regional Public Services had elected to accept compensation and retire. The number of officers of the Federal Public Service who had applied to join the Special List was much smaller than would give confidence in the maintenance of governmental activity at a reasonable level after Independence. Sir John Martin, Deputy Under-Secretary of State in the Colonial Office, therefore visited Nigeria and considered with representatives of the Governments and of the Public Services the possible need for some other solution to the problem of retaining sufficient experienced overseas officers. Following his visit proposals for another scheme were agreed

between the Secretary of State and the Federal Government and this scheme was called, to distinguish it from the first, Special List 'B', the first one then being known as Special List 'A'.

8. Special List 'A' had been based on assuring the overseas officer a continuing career even if it meant his leaving Nigeria (when no longer required there) and agreeing to serve in the United Kingdom or anywhere else that the Government there might send him. Because the scheme was complex and involved many compromises on matters of detail between the conflicting interests of the three parties to it, it could not be explained simply and convincingly to the officer (or, indeed, to members of the Nigerian public interested in it). Its lack of success may thus have been due to psychological reasons; but Sir John Martin found that the reasons were largely economic. The salaries in payment in 1957, which the Secretary of State had accepted as "reasonable" for the purposes of the Special List Agreements with the Governments in Nigeria, were claimed by civil servants to be no longer adequate to meet current living costs; many officers, particularly those with families to educate, felt obliged in the interests of their families to claim their compensation as soon as they were entitled to it and then to seek other employment before they were too old to have market value. No compensation would, of course, be payable to officers of the Federal Public Service before October 1, 1960, but the fact that officers in the Regions could claim it forthwith and thus enter the United Kingdom employment market before them made Federal officers dissatisfied. The new scheme therefore sought a solution by economic means. Whereas Special List 'A' officers have to give up their right to compensation, the new scheme sought to make use of officers' prospective right to compensation (which might otherwise have been an inducement to them to go) as a means of inducing them to stay in Nigeria.

9. The essence of Special List 'B', which is open only to overseas officers who were offered permanent and pensionable employment before August 31, 1957, is that an officer may obtain an advance (free of interest) against the compensation to which he will ultimately be entitled. In the Regions, where compensation schemes have already become effective, an officer may obtain an advance of 90 per cent



of his entitlement. In the Federal Public Service, where there is as yet no entitlement to compensation for any officer (nor will be before October 1, 1960), an officer may, on being admitted to the List, obtain an *interim* advance of 25 per cent of his annual pensionable emoluments with a similar advance each year until the compensation scheme becomes effective, when he may obtain the balance of the 90 per cent of his entitlement (*i.e.*, less any *interim* advances). The intention is that an entitled officer, who might otherwise be compelled for financial reasons to retire as soon as he could, would, with his financial anxieties about the purchase of a home or the education of children relieved by having a cash advance, stay on in service in Nigeria. The United Kingdom Government has agreed to give the Federal Government an interest-free loan of half the cost of these advances.

10. The schemes of lump sum compensation attempt to work out actuarially the value of the years of prospective employment left to an officer; and the amount for which he is eligible therefore varies with his age. The factor to be applied to his salary to determine his compensation therefore diminishes after he passes the age of 41. This is logical but it has the effect of encouraging an officer to retire before the amount of his compensation begins to decline. It was for this reason that the Governments in Nigeria agreed to adopt arrangements under which an officer's compensation might be "frozen" at the highest level applicable to his salary and length of service rather than that it should decline if he elected, because the Government still needed him to stay on in its service. The freezing system is a part of the lump sum compensation scheme itself and has been in use by the Eastern and Western Region Governments since 1957, but two other features of the Special List 'B' scheme are based on it. They are described in the next paragraphs.

11. Among the overseas officers who can least readily be spared are those in their late thirties and early forties. To induce them to stay the scheme provides for an annual abatement of the amount that they would otherwise have to refund, when they retire, because it has already been advanced to them. Half the cost of all advances is to be provided by the United Kingdom Government. That Government has agreed that its share of what an

officer would otherwise have to repay on retirement will be abated (that is to say, foregone by the United Kingdom Government and retained by the officer) as follows:

For each year of service after Independence and up to the age of 41—twenty per cent of the officer's annual pensionable emoluments.

For each such year after the age of 41 and up to 42—fifteen per cent.

For each such year after the age of 42 and up to 43—ten per cent.

For each such year after the age of 43 and up to 44—five per cent.

The United Kingdom Government will bear the whole cost of these abatements.

12. As a further inducement to officers to stay on after their entitlement to compensation would otherwise decline and to help the Government to retain their services, the United Kingdom Government will pay the additional cost of freezing an officer's compensation beyond the first three years after Independence.

13. An officer on Special List 'B' remains a member of the Federal Public Service, but he is also a member of the Overseas Civil Service; if he is offered transfer by the Secretary of State and accepts, he forfeits all right to compensation for loss of career. He must give the Federal Government twelve months notice of his intention to retire. His pension, gratuity and compensation (if any) will be paid to him by the United Kingdom Government, which will recover from the Federal Government.

## FINANCE

### Economic Conference in Ethiopia

**W.19. Mr J. S. Tarka** asked the Minister of Finance whether he will make a statement on the recent Economic Conference in Ethiopia.

**The Minister of Finance:** The inaugural meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa set up by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at Addis Ababa was mainly concerned with the creation of the organisation and establishing the machinery through which it would function. The Commission agreed on the necessity of working in co-operation with other inter-governmental organisations such as the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara.



## [THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]

As I said in my Budget Speech, in the early stages of its work, the Commission's main task will be an Annual Economic Survey and studies of the various problems of economic development in Africa, particularly those that affect more than one territory.

In pursuance of this aim, a programme of work was settled which includes the following:—

(i) A factual study should be made listing the principal cases where the countries and territories of West Africa could derive mutual benefit by increasing their economic contacts with each other, in such spheres as trade; conservation of water; international use of roads, railways and harbours; pooling of electric power; control of fisheries and other economic matters. The Executive Secretary should first obtain the consent of the Governments of West Africa to such a study.

(ii) The Executive Secretary should communicate with national and international bodies concerned with locust-control and enquire what, in the opinion of these bodies, is needed to ensure more effective control of locusts in Africa.

(iii) The Executive Secretary should request UNESCO to survey the facilities available for the training of Africans in economics, statistics and related fields of study. The Executive Secretary should take such action necessary to ensure fullest use of existing facilities. Should the UNESCO survey indicate the need for a new Institute, the Executive Secretary should consult Governments and other interested bodies with a view to putting the matter before the next session of the Commission.

I would like to point out that the Commission is not a new source for channelling development capital into the less developed countries but it will no doubt help in focussing the attention of the more highly capitalised economies on the pressing needs of the peoples of Africa.

From Nigeria's point of view, I am glad to say that the Conference was a success as delegates were left in no doubt about the vital role of an independent Nigeria in Africa. In an effort to implement the decisions of the Conference, the Executive Secretary of the Commission visited Nigeria in February last.

## ELECTRICITY

## Supply to Enugu-Ngwo

**W.45. Mr C. C. E. Onoh** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, when it is proposed to supply electricity to Enugu-Ngwo, which is only half a mile from the nearest power station.

**The Minister for Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power:** Enugu is now supplied with electricity from Oji, and Enugu-Ngwo is thus about 25 miles from the nearest Power Station which is in continuous operation.

To provide the village of Enugu-Ngwo with a supply of electricity would entail extending the Enugu H.T. transmission system from the Hill Top area—a matter of a mile or possibly slightly less. This is not impracticable but the paucity of revenue which can be anticipated from Enugu-Ngwo would mean that the Corporation would require a Capital Contribution equal to 100 per cent of the cost of the extension to justify the capital outlay which will be involved.

## COMMERCE

## Trade Missions

**W.14. Mr J. S. Tarka** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether, in view of the popularity of Indian, Japanese and Chinese goods in Nigeria, Government will consider sending a Trade Mission to these countries.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The question implies that the purpose of sending a trade mission to the countries named would be to stimulate imports into Nigeria of goods that already enjoy a favourable market in this country. If this were the object of sending a trade mission, it would not be justified, since the value of Nigeria's imports from India, Japan and China is considerably greater in each case than the value of her exports to them.

There might well be advantage, however, in sending an economic mission to the Far East to visit such countries as India, Japan and Hong Kong, with the three-fold purpose of stimulating markets for Nigeria's exports, studying the methods by which these countries have surmounted problems of industrial and commercial development and encouraging investment by their nationals in Nigerian industry. This possibility is already under consideration.



**Industry in Owerri**

**W.46. Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, when Government will establish a useful industry in that area in Owerri formerly used as the headquarters of the Shell BP Limited.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** It is not for the Federal Government to take the initiative in establishing industries in the Regions. As I explained in my written answer to Question W.31 (page 27 of the Appendix to Vol. 5, No. 16 of the Official Report), this is a matter primarily for Regional Governments, Production Development Boards or Corporations and private investors. The Federal Government is always ready to help and advise to the best of its ability and, if funds are available, having regard to the industrialisation of the country generally, to contribute towards the capital, if invited to do so by the Regional Government concerned and if the proposed enterprise is soundly planned and shows reasonable prospect of success.

**Sugar and Glass Industries**

**W.48. Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what efforts have been made towards the establishment of sugar and glass industries as requested by this House.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :**

**Sugar.**—A pilot scale sugar production scheme has been initiated in the Northern Region as a joint venture between the Northern Region Development Corporation and an overseas technical partner. The Federal Government has undertaken certain obligations in furtherance of this pilot scheme, the results of which will show whether it will be possible to develop profitably the local production of sugar on a plantation scale.

**Glass.**—I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to Question No. W.101 during the meeting of the House in July 1958. Tests have been carried out on sands and felspar from various parts of the country, and these indicate that it would be technically possible to utilise the raw materials found near Enugu and at Apapa. The Federal Government has recently received enquiries from overseas manufacturers of glassware who are considering

the possibility of setting up a factory in Nigeria but no firm proposals have yet been made. These enquiries are being followed up.

**TELEPHONES****Trunk Services at Ogoja**

**W.41. Mr G. I Ayim** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when it is proposed to introduce telephone trunk services at the Ogoja Post Office.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** It is anticipated that trunk telephone services will be provided at Ogoja Post Office towards the end of 1960.

**ROADS****Takum-Bissaula-Kamine Road**

**W.63. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the construction of the Takum-Bissaula-Kamine road will be resumed.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** Funds have been issued for the resumption of construction at Lupwe, 8 miles south of Takum, towards Bissaula. I have posted a Federal Engineer and 2 Federal Works Superintendents to the project. Plant is arriving at the site and labour is being recruited. Constructional work will be resumed shortly.

**Widening of Trunk Road at Abeokuta**

**W.79. Mr J. A. O. Akande :** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when it is proposed to widen the narrow Trunk Road A passing through Abeokuta, for which provision has been made in the Estimates.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** Although the widening of the road from Abeokuta to Ibadan was included in the Economic Programme, this project did not include the narrow and congested section from the Lafenwa Bridge to the Ake roundabout. I have carefully examined the possibility of widening this section through Abeokuta, but, because of high cost and the disturbance that would be involved, I am considering the alternative of a by-pass along the east bank of the Ogun River. I regret that there is insufficient finance to permit of either project being undertaken in the present Economic Programme.



**Lafenwa Bridge Opening**

**W.80. Mr J. A. O. Akande :** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when it is proposed to open the new Lafenwa Bridge in Abeokuta.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** I hope, Sir, that the bridge will be completed and opened in October next.

**Asaba-Onitsha Bridge**

**W.86. Chief J. Mpi :** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when work will commence on the Asaba-Onitsha Bridge.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** Sir, I am not yet in a position to name an exact date, but I hope to make a statement on the subject soon.

**Yola-Numan Road Section**

**W.51. M. Hassan Yola** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider tarring the 2½ mile section of the road between Jimeta and Yola Aerodrome on the Yola-Numan road.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** I have noted the hon. Member's request for execution when financial provision permits.

**Taraba Bridge**

**W.52. M. Hassan Yola** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the Taraba bridge on the Yola-Takum road will be completed.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** It is expected that the Taraba bridge will be completed by January 1960.

**Numan-Lafia, Gombe-Bauchi Roads**

**O.154. Mr Hassan Yola** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys what steps are being taken to repair the 20 mile stretch of road between Numan and Lafia, and the sandy section of road between Gombe and Bauchi.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** The stretches of road to which the Member refers are particularly difficult to maintain owing to the nature of the underlying soil. An engineer was posted at the end of last year to carry out intensive maintenance on these sections. I shall keep their maintenance under review until the finance available permits of their being reconstructed.

**Ngurore Crossing**

**O.155. Mr Hassan Yola** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he is aware of the hardship generally suffered by motorists

and other members of the public at the Ngurore Crossing during the rains when the bridge there is usually damaged, and whether he will consider constructing a permanent bridge there.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** Yes, Sir, I am so aware. Investigations are now proceeding as to the practicability of constructing a permanent bridge when funds become available.

**Yola-Takun, Yola Bamenda Roads**

**O.156. Mr Hassan Yola** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he is aware that the slow progress being made on the construction of the Yola-Takun and Yola-Bamenda roads is due to inadequacy of equipment, and what steps are being taken to help the engineers to expedite the work.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** I consider that the rate of progress of 25 miles a year made on the Yola-Takun road to be satisfactory. The Yola-Bamenda road is being constructed through very rugged country by the Northern Region Ministry of Works. I shall see that a fair share of the Federal equipment available is employed on these works, but the Member will understand that I find it necessary to give priority to roads with high traffic densities.

**Road from Makurdi to Jos**

**O.181 M. Yakubu Alanana** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when work will commence on the tarring of the section of the Trunk Road A from Makurdi to Jos, and whether efforts will be made to complete the work as soon as possible in order to minimise the suffering of motorists during the rainy season.

**The Minister of Works and Surveys :** The finance available for roads under the Economic Programme has permitted the reconstruction and tarring of 10 mile of road north of Makurdi, the north and south approaches to the Makurdi Bridge and 25 miles of road from the bottom of the Assob escarpment to Ropp Junction. I much regret that I can do no more under the present Programme.

I have, however put in hand the preliminary planning and costing of the completion of nearly 200 miles of road remaining to be tarred. I hope that it will be possible to include the whole of this work in the next Road Programme.



6th August, 1959

**PRISONS**

**Ex-Servicemen Employees**

**W.60. Mr B. O. Ikeh** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many ex-servicemen are employed in the Prisons Department.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** There are 558 Nigerian ex-servicemen employed in the Prisons Department.

**Deaths of Prisoners**

**W.87. Chief J. Mpi** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many prisoners died within the period 1958-1959; and what was the major illness to which the deaths were attributable.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :** The number of deaths recorded during 1958-1959 was 76, of whom 20 died in Prison and the remaining 56 died in outside hospitals to which they had been transferred.

The major illnesses to which deaths were attributable were :—

- Diseases of the Heart
- Venereal Disease
- Tuberculosis

**FEDERAL ELECTIONS**

**Vehicles for Electoral Commission**

**W.66. M. Usman A. Ahmed** asked the Prime Minister, how many motor vehicles have been purchased by the Electoral Commission for the purpose of conducting the forthcoming Federal elections, and how many of them have been sent to each of the Regions, the Federal Territory of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs :**

*Northern Region*

- 20 5-ton Bedford lorries
- 8 Land Rovers
- 1 Pontiac Station-Wagon.

In addition, the Chief Federal Electoral Officer in the North has been authorised to hire 6 Land Rovers for use during the period immediately before, during and immediately after registration, and 1 Land Rover purchased for use in the East has been lent to him for that period.

*Eastern Region*

- 1 5-ton Bedford lorry
- 2 Land Rovers.

*Western Region*

- 3 Bedford 3-ton lorries
- 3 Bedford 30-cwt pick ups
- 1 Bedford 10-cwt van.

*Southern Cameroons*

- 8 Land Rovers.

2. No new vehicles have been purchased for use in Lagos, since use is being made of the Lagos Town Council transport.

**POST OFFICES**

**Postal Agencies into Post Offices**

**W.54. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation if he will state the volume of business transacted in Nwangele, Nkwerre and Umuaka Postal Agencies, and when it is proposed to convert the postal agencies into departmental post offices.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** According to the method of computation explained in Sessional Paper 4 of 1957 the annual volume of business at the Nwagele postal agency is equivalent to 17,684 units, at the Nkwerre postal agency to 27,460 units, and at the Nmuaka postal agency to 16,577 units. As stated in the Sessional Paper the lowest volume for a sub-post office is 24,000 units, and the competent officials in the Eastern Region are considering whether the Nkwerre agency fulfils the other stipulated requirements: it will be converted into a sub-post office if it does.

**Facilities in Orlu Division**

**W.55. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, how soon it is proposed to provide telephone facilities at educational and Medical institutions in Orlu Division.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Some educational and medical establishments in the Orlu Division have telephones already. Others can probably be supplied with them on application to the representatives in the Eastern Region, of the



## [MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS]

Posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation, if they are within operational range of the exchanges at Arondizuogu and Orlu. The operational range of a telephone exchange is three miles.

**Parcel Acceptance Facilities**

**W.62. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation if he will consider the extension of parcel acceptance facilities to the postal agencies at Nkambe, Wum, Ndu, Ndog and Banso.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The posts and Telegraphs Division of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation is assessing the demand for the facilities which the hon. Member suggests in the postal agencies at Nkambe, Wum, Ndu, Ndog and where the demand warrants it they will be provided. They were introduced in the agency at Banso two years ago, and are still available there.

**Bi-weekly Mail Service**

**W.64. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider the introduction of a bi-weekly mail service to replace the present system in order to increase the volume of business transacted at the postal agencies in Wum, Nkambe, Ndu, Ndog and Banso.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** It was stated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs would normally accept no responsibility for the transport of mail between postal agencies and post offices. However, since the agencies which the hon. Member mentions are on the Bamenda Ring Road and since two of them are situated at Divisional headquarters the Department arranged where they are concerned to share the cost of carrying mails to and from the nearest post office with the local Native Authorities : the Department pays two thirds and the Native Authorities one third, and I am informed that the latter can afford no more. In these circumstances it is impossible to increase the frequency of the service.

**Converting Agencies**

**W.73. Mr T. A. Ajayi** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider converting the postal agencies at Ifaki, Iddo and Ara into sub-post offices.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The prerequisites for converting postal agencies into sub-post offices are stated in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, and the agencies which the hon. Member mentions transact less than 50 per cent of the stipulated volume of business.

**LANDS****Dishonest Sales**

**W.74. Mr L. L. Lakunle** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, if in view of the large number of people who are daily duped in the Federal Territory of Lagos he will make fraudulent and dishonest sale of lands a criminal offence punishable under the Criminal Code.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** It is considered that the provisions of section 423 of the Criminal Code adequately cover cases of fraudulent and dishonest sale of land. Therefore, no further or other legislative provision is necessary.

**PRINTING DEPARTMENT****Supernumerary Posts**

**W.61. Mr J. Mboyam** asked the Minister of Research and Information, whether he will consider creating more supernumerary posts of Technical Officer in the Federal Printing Department.

**The Ministry of Research and Information :** There are 5 posts of Technical Officer in the Printing Department, all of which are filled by Nigerians. There would, therefore, be no point in creating supernumerary posts.

**HEALTH****Mosquito Control**

**W.65. M. Usman A. Ahmed** asked the Minister of Health, what progress is being made in the eradication of mosquitoes in Ikoyi and in the Lagos territory as a whole.



**The Minister of Health :** The physical condition of Lagos makes mosquito control measures very difficult. The territory is low lying and is flanked by several islands covered by a maze of creeks. The greater part of the foreshore presents vast stretches of flat low land covered with a fringe of mangrove of variable width or with a dense and coarse mat of salt march grass. The urban area comprises an area of 24 sq. miles of which some 5½ sq. miles are tidal mangrove swamps, and another 2 sq. miles are fresh water swamps merging with peripheral parts of the tidal swamps.

2. The topography of the whole of the Lagos area is such that its mosquito breeding potential is very high. Control measures centre around detection and destruction of domestic and peridomestic mosquitoes and their larvae. In this connection a number of health and mosquito inspectors are employed on routine inspection of built-up areas of the township to detect and destroy mosquitoes and larvae in and around dwelling houses, factories, etc.

3. The other important arm of our campaign against mosquitoes is the malaria drainage scheme handed over to the Lagos Town Council on the 1st April, 1948, by the Nigerian Government. At the time of the handing over the final figures of the scheme stood at :—

Total area reclaimed	.. 4,195 acres
Total length of channels	130.4 miles
Total length of bunds	.. 20.7 miles

**The Minister of Transport :** As far as I am aware the Nigerian Railway Corporation has no such policy. The particulars requested of the Nigerians trained in the United Kingdom within the last five years are as follows :—

No. trained	Aspects of Corporation's activities	Present Post	
		Junior Grade	Senior Grade
17	Theoretical and practical Traffic Duties.	2 Traffic Supervisors 10 Traffic Assistants 1 Senior Station Master, Grade I	2 Traffic Controllers  2 Traffic Cadets
5	Professional Engineering Qualification	— —	1 Assistant Engineer 2 Assistant Works Manager 1 Assistant Electrical Engineer 1 Senior Draughtsman (Mechanical)
4	Staff and Establishment Duties	— —	3 Assistant Establishment Officers 1 Establishment Officer.

Total number of sluice gates .. .. . 21 (of which 4 were double and one quadruple).

In 1948, it was envisaged that the reclaimed areas were to be sandfilled in five years. It is to be noted however that only 1,200 acres, 1,000 at Apapa Mainland and 200 at South East Ikoyi have been sandfilled. Work is in progress at Victoria Island and Onikan to transform both areas to residential and commercial estates as well as to eliminate mosquito breeding there.

4. It is gratifying to record that good progress has been made towards eradication of mosquitoes in Ikoyi and in the territory of Lagos as a whole in recent years.

#### TRANSPORT Nigerian Railway Trainees

**W.44. Mr D. N. Abii** asked the Minister of Transport whether he is aware that it is the policy of the Nigerian Railway Corporation not to employ Nigerians in the posts for which they were trained in the United Kingdom, and if he will make statement, indicating how many Nigerians have been trained in the United Kingdom by the Corporation within the last five years, in what aspects of the Corporation's activities they were trained, what posts they now hold and under what agreement, if any, they were trained.



67	[Written Answers]	6 AUGUST 1959	Written Answers]	68
<i>No.</i>	<i>Aspect of Corporation's activities</i>	<i>Present Post</i>		
		<i>Junior Grade</i>	<i>Senior Grade</i>	
24	Supervisory Technical	2 Assistant Shop Foremen, Grade I	4 Workshop Foremen	
		6 Assistant Shop Foremen, Grade II	1 Production Foreman	
		1 Assistant Shed Foreman, Grade I	1 Shed Foreman	
		2 Assistant Shed Foremen Grade, II	2 Carriage and Wagon Inspectors	
		1 Assistant Weighbridge Foreman, Grade I	1 Road Transport Foreman	
		1 Assistant Foreman Grade II (Electrical)		
		1 Assistant Carriage and Wagon Inspector, Grade II		
		1 Assistant Technical Instructor		
48	To improve skills	27 Chargemen		
		18 Craftsmen		
		3 Artisans		

2. Each of the trainees is required to enter into agreement in the following terms :

"...I acknowledge that in accepting this award I take advantage of Nigerian Railway Corporation funds in order to complete the said training and I agree, on successful completion of the training, to serve the Corporation for a period of five years in any capacity for which the training has qualified me provided that an opportunity to serve is made available to me after the completion of the training ....."

The terms of the agreement are the same as those entered into by Federal Government scholars.

3. I propose to make a statement at this meeting about these men trained overseas.

#### ARMED FORCES

##### The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment

**W.76. Mr J. A. O. Akande** asked the Prime Minister, why battalions of The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment are never kept permanently at on station.

**The Prime Minister :** The battalions of The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment are part of a Federal Force which must be capable of operating efficiently anywhere in Nigeria. Only by periodic changes of station can all Battalions get to know the country and its frontiers and train under all Nigeria's widely differing conditions. Not only do training facilities and amenities vary between stations

but some have one military unit only and it is desirable in the interests of efficiency to give each Battalion periods in association with other units of the Nigerian Military Forces. For these reasons the policy of periodic change of station is followed for the Infantry Battalions.

#### POLICE

##### Women Recruit

**O.187. M. Yakubu Alanana** asked the Prime Minister, how many women have been recruited into the Nigeria Police Force since 1956.

**The Prime Minister :** 114 Women have been recruited into the Nigeria Police since 1956.



10th August, 1959

**INDUSTRY**  
**Scrap Metals**

**O.171. Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what progress has been made in the effort to use scrap metals for steel industry.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** Considerable progress has been made towards the establishment in Nigeria of a re-rolling mill in which the iron and steel scrap at present exported can be converted into re-inforcing rods and similar steel products. The Federal Government engaged a firm of steel consultants of international repute to investigate the problem and their report has been received. Approaches have been made to various interests who may be prepared to invest the capital required, and at the same time a suitable technical partner is being sought. I have every hope that both these matters will be successfully concluded in the not very distant future, and that a foundry and rolling mill will then be erected on a plot of land which the Federal Government has acquired for this purpose.

**Aid to African Businessmen**

**O.170. Dr K. O. Mbadiwe** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what steps

he has taken to implement the recommendations on "Aid to African Businessmen".

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry:** The Report of the Advisory Committee on Aids to African Businessmen has been printed and distributed to Members. There are thirty main recommendations and I cannot do justice to them in answering an oral question. I shall, however, be giving the House, a little later on to-day, a full account of the steps which are being taken to implement the recommendations.

At the present moment I prefer to confine my answer to saying that the recommendations have been considered most carefully. They have been referred to Regional Governments for their view, to other interested Federal Ministries, to the Governor of the Central Bank, to Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations and to private individuals. Both the report and the comments received have been thoroughly considered. Some recommendations have already been carried into effect and action is in progress to implement others.

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Member for his timely establishment of this Committee. His action has been most helpful to me in dealing with the problems of Nigerian businessmen.

11th August, 1959

**POSTAL SERVICES**  
**Orlu Post Office**

**\*W.53. Mr E. C. Akwivu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation how soon it is proposed to reconstruct and modernise Orlu Post Office to a state commensurate with the size and importance of Orlu.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation:** The hon. Member will recall that the post office at Orlu is not mentioned in Annexure 4, Annexure 5, or Annexure 6 to the statement of the policy proposed by the Federal Government for the establishment of post offices, which was approved by the House of Representatives as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957: a Post Office which does not appear in the lists referred to cannot be reconstructed before 1960, at the earliest, but at Orlu the

public counter is to be extended by approximately 12 feet; the telegraph section and postmaster's table are to be accommodated in what are now the battery room and telephone exchange, and a small extension to be added at the rear of the building will house the battery room and telephone exchange, and afford some welfare facilities for the staff. These improvements will enable the staff to provide the public with a more efficient and convenient service.

**Telephone facilities at Ifaki, etc.**

**W.70. Mr T. A. Ajayi** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, when Government will implement its policy of providing telephone facilities at Ifaki, Iddo and Ijero as contained in the Government White Paper on Telecommunications.



**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Telephone call offices will be provided at Ifaki and Ijero within the next few months. There was no suggestion in the White Paper which the hon. Member mentions that telephone facilities would be provided at Iddo during the current economic planning period. Iddo would no doubt be included in the list of the towns to be provided with telephone facilities in the next development programme.

#### Telegraph facilities at Ijero

**W.71. Mr T. A. Ajayi** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, when telegraph facilities will be extended to the new sub-post office at Ijero.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** It is anticipated that telephone call office facilities together with facilities for the despatch and receipt of telegrams will be extended to Ijero within the next few months.

#### New Post Office at Ahoada

**W.88. Chief J. Mpi** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, when it is proposed to open the new post office at Ahoada.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The new post office at Ahoada will be opened as soon as possible after work has been completed on the decoration of the building and of the postmaster's quarters.

#### Benin Telephone Exchange

**O.177. Mr E. O. Imafidon** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when it is proposed to instal an Automatic Telephone Exchange in Benin.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Because of the many factors governing the priorities given to automatic telephone exchange projects, the most important of which are need, economic mobility, availability of funds and availability of equipment, it is not possible to state precisely when in this present programme an automatic telephone exchange will be installed at Benin.

The existing manually operated exchange which was installed as recently as March 1957, is being extended so that it will be capable of meeting the needs of the community efficiently until the automatic exchange is available.

#### Benin Division Post Offices

**O.178. Mr E. O. Imafidon** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, when it is

proposed to erect a Post Office in each of the five District Council Headquarters in Benin Division.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** Conditions for the establishment of postal agencies, sub-post offices and post offices are set out in sessional paper No. 4 of 1957, which the House of Representatives approved, and the Ministry of Communications and Aviation will provide post offices at the district council headquarters in the Benin Division when these conditions are fulfilled. The Councils in question have their headquarters at Ekiadolor, Eguaholor, Ugo, Iguobazowa, and Ehor. There are postal agencies at Ekiadolor, Ehor, and Ugo, and the latter serves Iguobazowa. Eguaholor is served by an agency at Ozanisi. According to the latest available records the agency at Ekiadolor performs the equivalent of 5,025 units of business a year. The figures for the agencies at Ehor, Ozanisi, and Ugo are 9,519 units, 5,264 units, and 4,036 units respectively. The sessional paper states that "a Postal Agency will normally be considered for conversion to a sub-Post Office when the units of business transacted reach 24,000 per annum".

#### Udi Post Office

**O.191. Mr G. O. D. Eneh** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation, when it is proposed to open the Udi Post Office.

**The Minister of Communications and Aviation :** The new post office at Udi was opened on the first of this month.

### TRANSPORT

#### New Ferry for Sapele

**O.173. Mr E. O. Imafidon** asked the Minister of Transport, when the new Ferry proposed for Sapele will be put into operation.

**The Minister of Transport :** It is expected that the new ferry on order will be completed by the end of the current year and should be delivered in Nigeria early next year. The Sapele-Benin terminals will, however, require considerable reconstruction in order to accept the larger ferry and this may cause some delay. I can assure the hon. Member, however, that everything possible will be done to expedite the work. The new ferry should certainly be in operation by the middle of next year I hope very much earlier.



*13th August, 1959*

### POWER

#### Electricity for Orlu

**W.56. Mr E. C. Akwiwu** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, whether he has now received the report on the investigation into the electricity demand potentiality for Orlu township, and if so, how soon it is proposed to include Orlu township in the list of towns to be supplied with electricity in the very near future.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power :** The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has no funds available for the electrification of Orlu town but estimates of the cost of this work have been provided to the Eastern Regional Government who are considering the possibility of providing the money for this development along with that of a number of other Eastern Region towns.

### REPATRIATION

#### Distressed Nigerian Pilgrims

**W.75. Mr J. A. O. Akande** asked the Prime Minister how much was spent on repatriating the 844 distressed Nigerian pilgrims from

Saudi Arabia ; and what measures have been taken to ensure that only those who can adequately finance their pilgrimage are allowed to proceed to Saudi Arabia.

**The Prime Minister :** The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the reply given to Oral Question No. 161, which is recorded in columns 1488-89 in the Official Report dated Thursday, 6th August, 1959.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### Commissioner's Office Staff

**W.85. M. Abdullahi Othman Magajin Musawa** asked the Prime Minister, how many members of the staff of the office of the Commissioner of the Federation of Nigeria in the United Kingdom are Nigerians and how many are English.

**The Prime Minister :** The senior staff of the office is composed of 24 Nigerians and 5 non-Nigerians. Amongst the clerical and subordinate staff there are 44 Nigerians and 16 non-Nigerians.

*17th August, 1959*

### COMMERCE

#### Hire-Purchase Agreements

**W.81. Mr J. A. O. Akande** asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what action has been taken on the resolution of the House on the question of introducing legislation on hire-purchase agreements in Nigeria.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry :** Since the last meeting of this House, the need for legislation regarding hire-purchase activities in this country has been examined by my Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and with Regional Governments. Such consultation has been necessitated by the fact that Federal powers on this subject relate only to the Federal territory of Lagos, and it would obviously be

of benefit to the business community if the same degree of control were exercised in all parts of Nigeria.

It is the Federal Government's view that there is need to introduce legislation for the consideration of the House which would cover the many aspects of the problems which will arise from the introduction of hire-purchase arrangements. This legislation would seek to ensure the growth of hire-purchase finance on orderly and sensible lines. It would include in particular provisions for controlling the nature and content of hire-purchase agreements and for the protection of hirers and owners. I would emphasise that such legislation is, by its very nature, complex, and for constitutional reasons we shall have to continue to act in close consultation with Regional Governments.